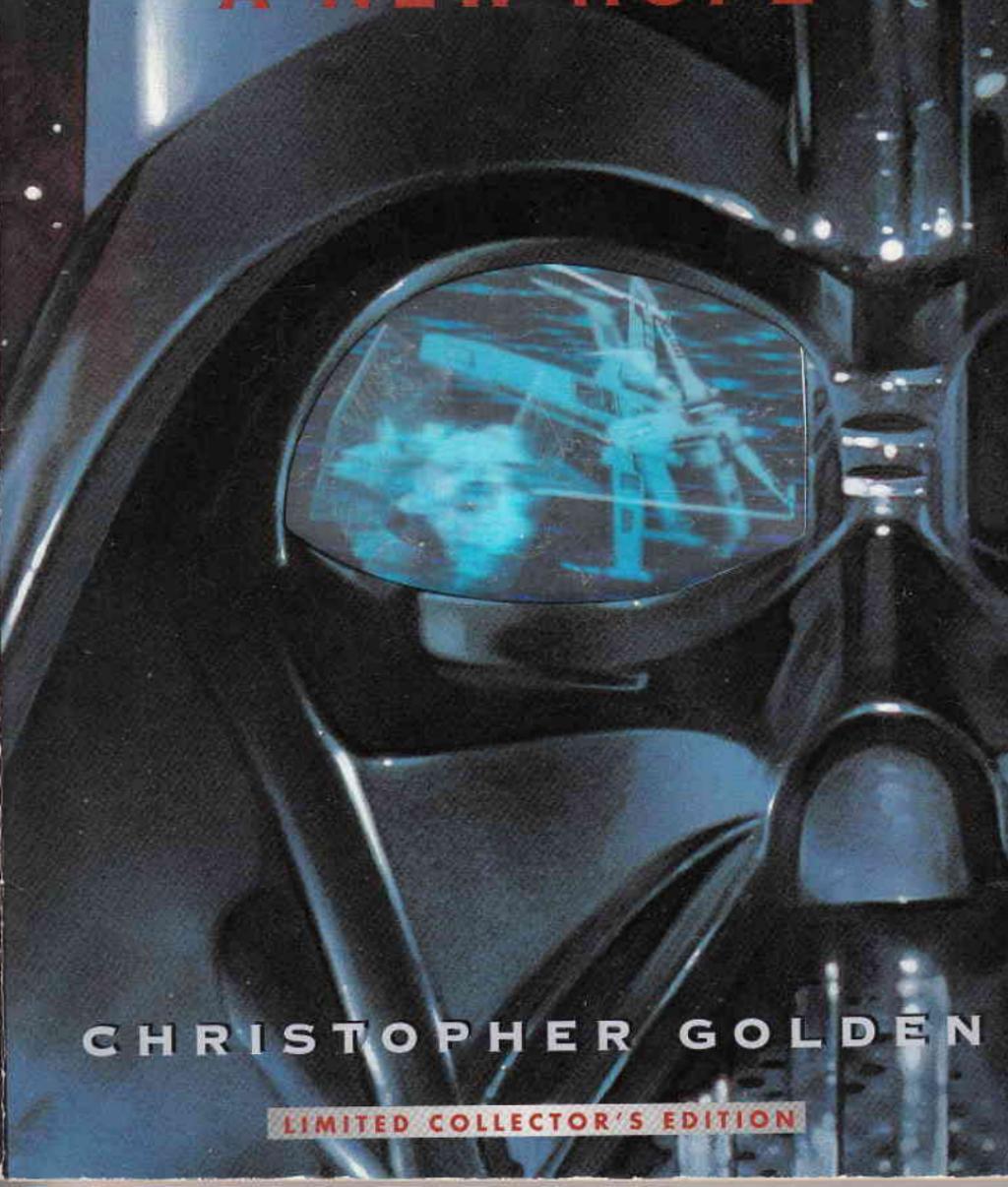


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A NEW HOPE



CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

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The fate of the Rebel Alliance is in your hands...

You're dragged to the command deck of the Death Star, so scared you can't even look at the two men standing above you.

Your fear grows to terror as you realize that one of the men is Darth Vader, the former Jedi knight who turned to the dark side of the Force.

"There is the seed of the Force in you," Vader whispers ominously. "I could teach you how to harness your power."

The Force, you think. In me?

"What do you want from me in exchange for my training?" you ask.

"It's very simple," Vader explains. "Do whatever you must to find the location of the Rebel headquarters. Then simply let us know."

If you make the right choice, the glory of a triumphant Rebellion may be yours. Choose wrong and you'll face the monstrous fury of Darth Vader. Betraying your friends seems like the only way to save yourself, but is life worth living as a servant of the Empire?

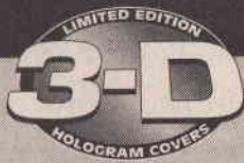
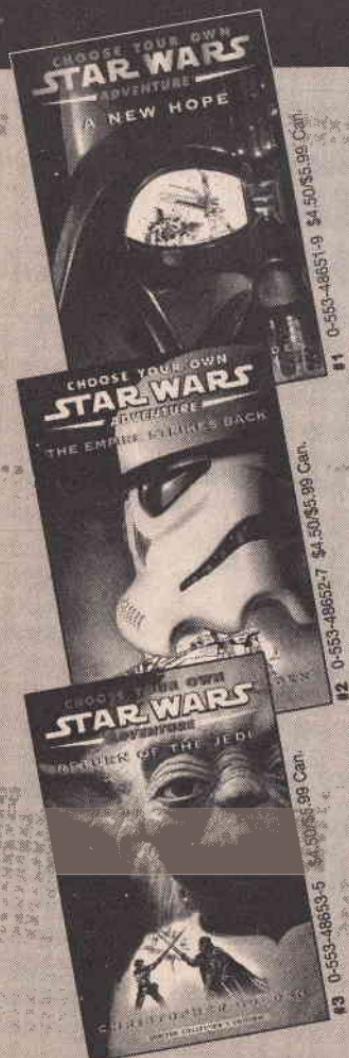
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A NEW HOPE

BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

Illustrated by Eric Cherry



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A NEW HOPE

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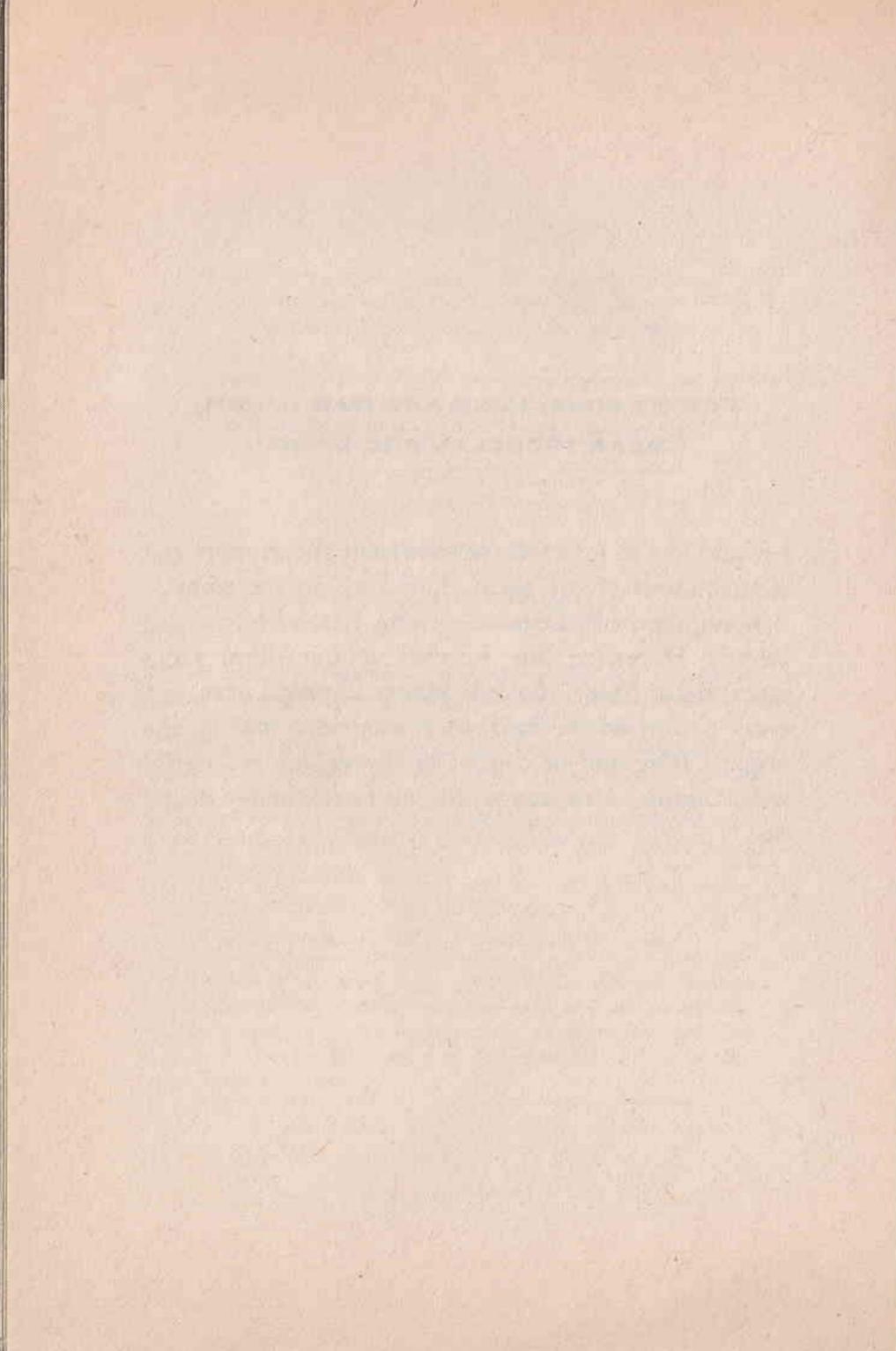
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**FOR MY SONS, LUKE AND HAN . . . UM,
I MEAN NICHOLAS AND DANIEL**

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support and contributions of my agent, Lori Perkins; the team at Bantam, especially Diana Capriotti, Karen Meyers, and Beverly Horowitz; Sue Rostoni at Lucasfilm; radio scribe Brian Daley; the Jedi Master George Lucas, and every person whose hard work went into making the original film; and of course, as always, my wonderful wife, Connie, who knows this stuff even better than I do.



A NEW HOPE

WARNING!!!

Do not read this book straight through from beginning to end. These pages contain many different adventures that you may have as Luke Skywalker's best friend. From time to time as you read along, you will be asked to make a choice. What you decide may mean the difference between a victorious Rebel army and a long reign of Imperial terror under the Emperor and his minion, Darth Vader.

The adventures you have are the results of your choices. You are responsible because you choose. After you make a decision, follow the instructions to find out what happens to you next.

Think carefully before you act. The Force is in you, and you may harness your power for the good of the Rebel Alliance, or you may be seduced by the dark side. It will not always be easy to see the difference between good and evil. You may be forced to sacrifice yourself or your friends for a greater goal. Your life, and indeed the future of the galaxy, depend on the choices you make.

Good luck!

You live on your parent's moisture farm on the planet Tatooine, a dustball covered with wind-driven sands and rolling dunes.

You hear the exciting stories of the Empire and the Rebellion, and you dream that soon you'll get off Tatooine. As your best friend, Luke Skywalker, often says, "If there's a bright center to the universe, Tatooine is the planet farthest from it." Luke also wants to get off Tatooine, to do what so many of your friends have done: attend the Imperial Space Academy and become a pilot.

Late one night you are lying in bed thinking about becoming a fighter pilot. Though you know you should be thinking about the Imperial Navy, your thoughts are more and more of the Rebels. There's something cool about the Rebels. And everyone knows that the Emperor is evil.

Suddenly you hear a whisper outside your window.

"Hey."

It's Luke. He lives with his uncle Owen and aunt Beru, who have their own moisture farm not far away.

"Han, we've got to turn around!" you blurt suddenly. "Chewbacca's right. We can't just leave!"

"Aw, not you, too!" Han shouts. "What is this, a mutiny?"

"You know we're right," you argue. "I can hear it in your voice. You can't leave Luke and the entire Rebel Alliance without at least trying to help. You're not the kind of man who can just walk away from a fight like this!"

Han glares at you, then at Chewie, who growls softly in agreement.

"I feel like a coward, Han," you whisper. "I don't want to live the rest of my life feeling this way."

"Neither do I," he says, and drops the *Falcon* out of hyperspace.

As soon as the ship's navigational controls are changed, Han makes the jump to lightspeed, and you're on course back to Yavin 4. But the scene when you arrive is enough to make your hair stand on end. The Rebels are getting massacred. Most of the X-wings have been blown out of space by Imperial TIE fighters or by the Death Star's own defensive systems.

"I am the Grand Moff Tarkin," the gray-haired man explains. "This is Darth Vader."

You are silent, afraid that anything you might say will make Tarkin and Vader angry.

"Who was on the *Millenium Falcon*?" Tarkin demands.

"I . . . I don't know," you reply.

"Another lie will kill you!" Vader booms. His deep voice strikes greater fear in your heart.

"Luke Skywalker," you admit, ashamed. But just knowing his name won't help them. "And Ben Kenobi."

"Kenobi?" Vader thunders. "Obi-Wan Kenobi?"

"Where did they go?" Tarkin demands.

You are terrified. But you can't betray Luke.

"I don't know," you lie. "Kenobi wouldn't say."

"I sense the Force in you," Vader whispers. "I could make you a powerful weapon."

"The Force?" you whisper. "In me?"

"I will offer you a chance to live," Tarkin says. "As well as wealth and power as an officer in the Imperial Navy."

You stare at Tarkin in shock!

Suddenly you spot smoke on the horizon. Luke pilots the landspeeder in that direction. It's a huge Jawa sandcrawler, and it's on fire. It has been attacked, and all the Jawas have been killed. At first it seems as though the Sand People have done it, but on investigation you discover clues that point to the Imperial soldiers Ben says are called stormtroopers. The stormtroopers probably destroyed the sandcrawler because they were looking for R2 and C-3PO. You sense great danger.

"Oh, no!" Luke exclaims. "They must know by now the Jawas sold the droids to Uncle Owen. And that would lead them back . . ."

Luke turns and runs to the landspeeder. You have only a moment to decide whether to go with him or stay with Ben and the droids.

**IF YOU GO WITH LUKE,
TURN TO PAGE 6.**

**IF YOU STAY WITH BEN,
TURN TO PAGE 26.**

"I guess there's no reason for all of us to die," you say grimly.

Han nods. Soon you board the *Millenium Falcon*, and without any more good-byes, you leave Yavin 4 behind. You feel an incredible relief as the ship moves away from the moon.

Still, you feel more and more guilty as you move away from Yavin 4. You don't bring it up, because you don't think you can change Han's mind.

A short time later, you catch Chewbacca staring at you. He looks as upset as you feel. After a moment, he turns to Han and growls something.

"Look, Chewie," Han says. "I know what I'm doing, okay? We can use this reward to pay off Jabba the Hutt, then we're in the clear. No more price on our heads, no more bounty hunters. If we go back we're as dead as the rest of them."

**IF YOU HELP CHEWBACCA CONVINCE HAN
TO TURN AROUND, TURN TO PAGE 2.**

**IF YOU THINK THAT YOU SHOULD KEEP
GOING, TURN TO PAGE 97.**

You want to stay with Ben and learn about the Force. Maybe someday you'll become a Jedi yourself. But even though R2's safety is vital to the Rebellion, you know you have to go home with Luke. He's your best friend, and he and his family come first.

You jump into the landspeeder with Luke and race across the desert. From far away you can see smoke rising from his aunt and uncle's moisture farm. When you arrive, you stare at the burning buildings of the farm in shock.

Luke jumps out. You go after him.

“Uncle Owen!” he shouts. “Aunt Beru!”

You shout with him. When no one answers, you both know the awful truth—Luke's family is dead. The stormtroopers have killed them.

“Luke,” you say. “I'm sorry . . .”

But Luke ignores you. He runs over to his burning home and howls with anger and grief, vowing to take revenge on the Empire.

A short while later, you watch the *Millenium Falcon* take off and leave the planet.

You wander around Mos Eisley, looking for someone to take you back to your parents. But you have no money, and no one will help you. Soon the two suns begin to set, and the streets grow dark.

Finally you meet a courier named Capri Otti. She doesn't have room for a passenger in her loaded messenger vehicle, but she will take a message to your parents and bring back whatever money they send.

Capri Otti leaves, and there is nothing you can do but wait for her. You go back into the cantina and ask the bartender, a man named Wuher, if he's hiring. The many alien races frighten you, but you need to make some money if you want to have a place to sleep and food to eat until Capri Otti returns.

"So your friends have left you on your own? Well, this place is pretty tough," Wuher warns.

Calling up all your courage, you reply, "So am I!"

"You're hired, then," the bartender says. "Maybe I'll even forget you came in here with those Rebels."

Wuher seems nice enough, but later that night you learn that he supports the Empire.

Just then, the freighter captain you've hired taps you on the shoulder and gestures for you to follow him. The ship is ready, and it's time to go. As you leave the cantina, you see Wuher talking to two stormtroopers. He points at you.

"Let's go," you urge the captain. The two of you hurry into the dusty streets of Mos Eisley.

"Halt!" someone shouts behind you.

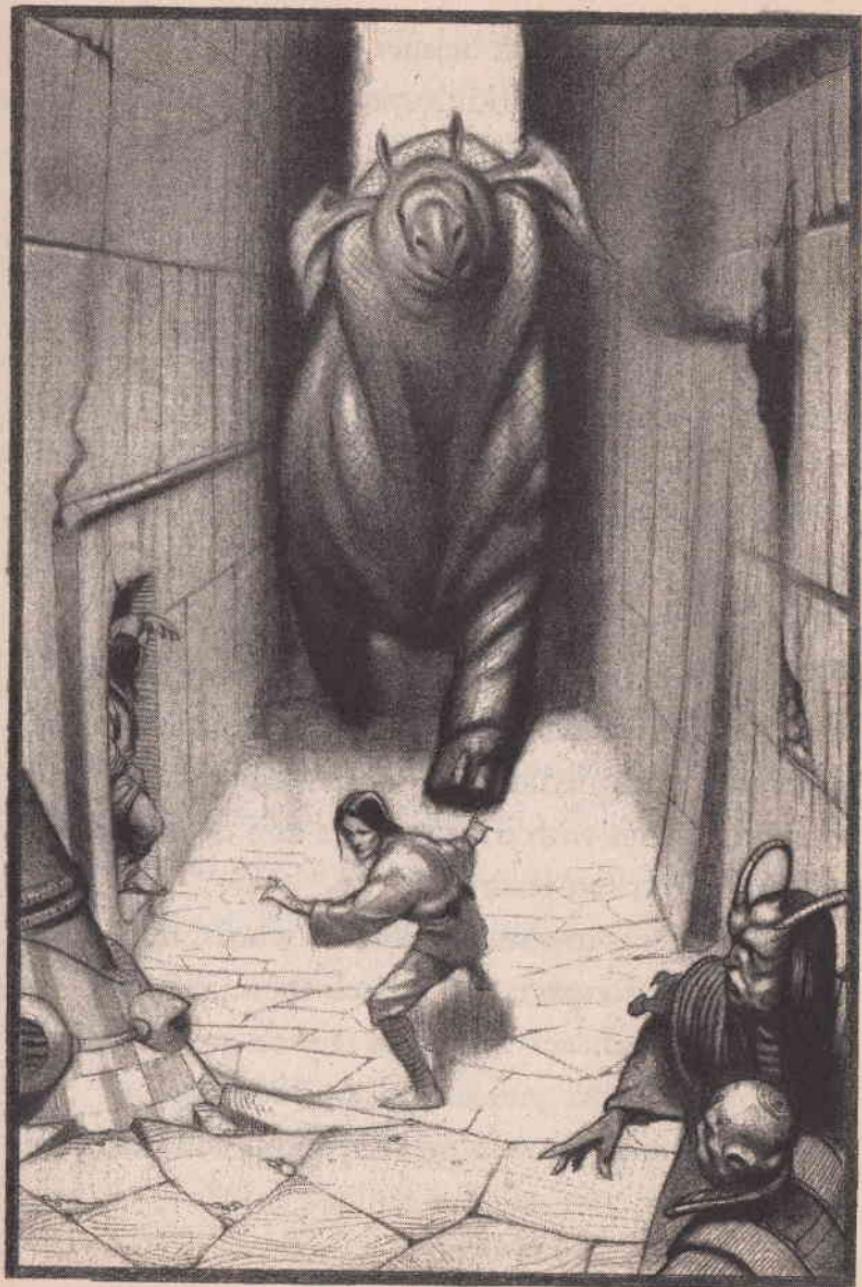
"Run!" you cry, shoving the captain ahead of you.

"I'm not running from Imperial stormtroopers," the captain replies. "You're on your own, friend."

You turn to see the stormtroopers clomping down the street after you, their weapons drawn. Wuher must have told them you were with Luke and Ben before they boarded the *Falcon* and blasted past Imperial ships. You're not surprised.

You turn a corner into a narrow alley. A slowly shambling ronto almost blocks your path. You squeeze by and then run like crazy, hoping the huge, leathery animal will slow down the stormtroopers enough for you to get away.

Maybe you'll escape after all. You start to smile.



You look at the black helmet covering Vader's face, and the cold evil in Tarkin's eyes, and you realize that your life means nothing to them. Eventually they'll kill you. Now or later—it makes no difference to them. If you agree to spy on Leia, you'll only be postponing the inevitable.

"Forget it," you hear yourself say. Tarkin narrows his eyes and glares at you angrily. He gestures to the stormtroopers who brought you in.

"Execute him," Tarkin sneers. Even though you felt courageous a moment earlier, the actual order for your death makes you sick with fear.

"No!" Vader barks. "The Force is in this one. Not strong, but it's there. Some time in the spice mines on Kessel might make for a more willing soldier and student. Beings with the Force are rare. Killing them should be our last resort."

Tarkin seems to consider Vader's words, then nods to the stormtroopers. "To Kessel, then," he says.

You can't believe your luck. You're going to live. Vader approaches you and says, "Perhaps one day you will change your mind. Then you will be useful to me. If not, you will die in those mines."

"They want our hides, and bad," Han says grimly. "Why don't you outrun them?" Luke asks. "I thought you said this ship was fast."

"Watch your mouth, kid, or you're going to find yourself floating home!" Han warns. "Chewie, the navigation computer is set. Hit the hyperdrive!"

Chewbacca does as he's told, and the *Falcon* lurches forward. Space bends around the ship, stars whip by faster than the eye can see, and then you are in hyperspace, traveling so fast that the huge Imperial Cruisers will never catch you.

Later, as you travel through hyperspace toward Alderaan, a trip that will take some time, R2 and 3PO play hologames. Han takes the opportunity to make some minor repairs to damage sustained during your escape from Tatooine. Which leaves you and Luke to press Ben with more questions about the Force and being a Jedi Knight.

"Hi, Luke," you answer quietly. "What brings you here this late? If your uncle finds out you left the farm, he'll be pretty mad."

"I'll be in bigger trouble if I don't get our new droid back," Luke mutters.

"What do you mean?" you ask. "What happened with the new droid? And which one? That gold protocol droid, C-3PO?"

"No, the little R2 unit," Luke explains. "It was the strangest thing. Uncle Owen had me clean them up, and I triggered a holorecording. The little droid just kept repeating part of the holovid over and over."

"What was it?" you ask.

"Who was it, is more like it," Luke answers. "This girl, the prettiest girl I've ever seen, with a message for someone named Obi-Wan Kenobi. I couldn't get the whole message to play."

"Did you try taking off the restraining bolt?" you ask. "Sometimes those bolts can botch other droid functions."

"I did that, but that made the droid even more excited, and then the message disappeared completely," Luke says.

Ben then explains about the Force, the energy field that connects all living things and from which Jedi Knights get their power. But the Force, he explains, has a dark side, to which some Jedi, like his former student Darth Vader, have fallen prey.

Suddenly R2 begins to beep urgently.

"Go on, R2," you say. "Show us this urgent message."

"General Kenobi," begins a holograph of a beautiful girl, "years ago you served my father in the Clone Wars. Now we beg you to help us in our struggle against the Empire. I have placed information vital to the security of the Rebellion into the memory system of this R2 unit. You must see this droid safely to my father on Alderaan. Please help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope."

"Who is she?" Luke asks, and you can see that he is intrigued by the girl.

"She is Princess Leia Organa of the Royal House of the planet Alderaan," Ben explains. "Officially she is an Imperial Senator, but secretly she is a leader of the Rebel Alliance.

A PRINCESS? VERY IMPRESSIVE.

TURN TO PAGE 91.

"Luke, I'm heading out of here!" you shout. "I'll go get help!"

Luke calls for you to wait, that you'll have a better chance if you stick together, but you don't listen. As you run away, you can hear the savage screams of the Sand People as they knock your best friend to the ground. Still, you convince yourself that running for help is the only way either of you will live.

You dodge one of the Tusken Raiders who comes after you and reach the edge of the hill, where you quickly scramble down. At the bottom you risk a quick glance behind you. The Sand People have stopped chasing you and are rummaging through Luke's landspeeder, tossing gear out onto the sand.

Quickly you look around. You realize that to escape now, you'll have to take one of their banthas.

As you run toward the banthas, a Tusken Raider suddenly appears from behind the creatures, screaming at you as it lifts a club to finish you off. You should have known they would never leave their animals unguarded.

You talk bravely, but you are too terrified of Darth Vader to cast your lot with your friends, at least for the moment. At the same time you feel so guilty about your earlier betrayal that you can't bring yourself to betray them again.

The battle continues. Several stormtroopers have worked their way into the landing bay, trying to get around behind Luke to surprise him. You see that he's taken cover behind a TIE fighter. If the stormtroopers sneak up on him, Luke is dead for sure.

**IF YOU DECIDE TO HELP LUKE,
TURN TO PAGE 87.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO HOLD BACK,
TURN TO PAGE 94.**

You stay calm, urging Luke to try again. Finally he reaches 3PO, and R2 shuts down the compactor in time to save your lives.

Once outside, it's a matter of keeping a running firefight going with the stormtroopers. You all split up, fighting off the battle station's seemingly endless supply of guards, but eventually everyone returns to the landing bay.

Running across the bay toward the open ramp of the *Millenium Falcon*, you hear Luke cry out.

“Ben!”

Everyone turns to see Ben Kenobi and Darth Vader battling with lightsabers. They slash at each other, their deadly weapons humming, flashing, and creating sparks with each blow. Then, in a moment of strange calm, Ben stops fighting and allows Darth Vader to strike him down.

“No!” Luke screams in horror.

“Luke, come on!” you shout. “Ben gave his life so we could escape! Don’t let him down now!”



Han reveals special hidden compartments in the floor of the starship that are usually used for smuggling illegal goods. It's hot and dark in the belly of the *Falcon*, but you keep as still as possible when the Imperial troops board the ship.

Believing the ship to be abandoned, the troops leave, and you all climb out of the hidden compartments.

"That was easy," you say. "We fooled them!"

"Great," Han says sarcastically. "Now what? Even if I could take off again, we'd never get past that tractor beam."

"Leave that to me," Ben says.

Just then, a scanning crew comes up the ramp of the *Falcon* to do a more thorough search of the ship. Han and Chewie knock them out and then call down into the landing bay for the stormtroopers. When the troopers come up, you blast them and take their armor. Dressed as troopers, you, Han, and Luke make your way to the landing bay's command center, blasting through the small crew. A moment later, Ben, Chewie, 3PO, and R2 join you.

“She’s beautiful, Han,” you say, hoping a pretty girl will get his attention.

It doesn’t. But Luke has another idea.

“She’s rich, Han,” Luke says. “A princess. You’ll get a huge reward if you save her life.”

“I’ll get a huge reward, huh?” Han asks.

“Absolutely,” Luke says.

Han stares at Luke a moment. Finally he declares, “I’d better!”

Leaving the droids in the landing bay command center, you, Luke, and Han, in your stormtrooper uniforms, escort Chewbacca, who pretends to be a prisoner, to the prison level of the station. When the door opens to the block of cells where Princess Leia is being kept, you open fire again, blasting the guards as they fire at you.

You can't think of anything to say to the officer to convince him that you're a stormtrooper, so you do nothing. In his frustration, Han fires at the console. It erupts in a flash of smoke and flame.

"Well, I guess he won't be bothering us anymore," you say. You smile, but you're nervous that the stormtroopers will come after you now.

Han shrugs. "Boring conversation anyway," he says. "Let's just hope your buddy moves fast and finds the princess." He turns to shout down the corridor. "Luke, we're going to have company!"

A few moments later stormtroopers are at the door, pounding and shouting. Then you hear the sound of blaster fire.

"They'll be in here any second," you say. "We'd better take cover."

"Cover where?" Han asks. Chewie growls.

"Look, I'm not the one who shot up the comm unit!" you shout.

The door opens and the stormtroopers start firing. You, Han, and Chewie return fire, backing into the corridor where Luke has found and freed Princess Leia.

“Dantooine?” Vader says after you’ve told him. “Tarkin will think the planet too remote to provide an effective demonstration of the Death Star’s power, but I will speak with the Emperor. With the plans for the station in Rebel hands, we must move quickly to destroy their base.

“You have done well,” Vader continues. “I sense you are troubled by your actions, but rest assured that such feelings will pass. Soon you will see that your decision was correct. You will benefit greatly from it.”

“Great job,” Leia says, glaring at Han. “You just blew our only escape route.”

“Maybe you’d prefer to stay here in your cell, Your Highness?” Han asks angrily.

Luke uses the small handheld communicator, or comlink, to speak to 3PO. Maybe R2 can use the main computer to find another way out.

“R2 says the entire station has been alerted to our presence, Master Luke,” 3PO’s voice crackles over the comlink. “There doesn’t seem to be any other way out . . . oh, sir, stormtroopers are coming. R2 and I must hide!”

3PO signs off then, as you continue to fire at the stormtroopers blocking the exit.

“This is some rescue!” Leia shouts. “When you came in here, didn’t you have a plan for getting out?”

Han yells, “Hey, the kid is the brains, sweetheart! The rest of us are just along for the ride.”

Leia grabs the blaster from Luke and shoots a hole through the wall of the corridor. A terrible smell wafts out of the hole, and you realize that the princess has opened an access to the garbage chute.

Quietly you stun the stormtrooper walking with Leia. As he drops to the floor, Leia turns and stares at you. You pick up the fallen stormtrooper's blaster and hand it to her.

"What . . . ?" She fumbles for something to say. "Why did you do that?"

"Whatever you may think of me, I saved your life—and the lives of Luke, Ben, and everyone on Alderaan—by betraying the location of the Rebel base," you tell her. "Now, if we can all get out of here before the Rebels blow up the Death Star, I think we'll have done pretty well."

"You don't expect me to believe this was your plan all along, do you?" Leia says angrily. "You gave up the location of the Rebel base to save your own hide."

"You can believe what you want," you tell her.

Leia hides out of sight while you call out to the stormtroopers to withdraw, saying Vader has called for them on the control deck. Once they leave, you rush into the landing bay, where the *Millenium Falcon* awaits.

"Luke!" you cry, as you greet each other warmly.

“What’s that?” you ask.

“Maybe the reason that snake-thing ran off,” Han says. “I don’t like the sound of it.”

Then the walls begin to close in on all of you.

“We’re inside a trash compactor!” Leia screams.

“Try to brace the walls with something!”

But no matter what you do, you cannot stop the walls from closing. Finally you remember that Luke has the comlink.

“Luke!” you shout, “call 3PO. If R2 can shut down the compactor . . .” You don’t even have to finish your thought. Luke is trying to reach 3PO already. R2 could save your lives.

“He’s not answering!” Luke cries in a panic.

**IF YOU PANIC ALONG WITH LUKE,
TURN TO PAGE 103.**

**IF YOU STAY CALM AND THINK OF
OPTIONS, TURN TO PAGE 16.**

"I'm going to be in so much trouble," Luke continues. "After dinner I went to check on them and R2 had run away."

"Run away?" you ask in surprise. "How far can an R2 unit get on the sand?"

"Far enough, obviously," Luke replies, frustrated.

"So do you think this Obi-Wan is related to that crazy old hermit, Ben Kenobi?" you ask.

Luke shrugs. "I asked Uncle Owen about him. He said that Obi-Wan Kenobi lived around here a long time ago, but he's dead now. Anyway, listen. I came over here to ask if you'd come with me tomorrow. I'm taking C-3PO to look for R2, and I could use an extra pair of eyes."

"Sure, buddy," you say. "All you have to do is ask."

The next morning, you meet Luke bright and early. You'll probably get in trouble for missing breakfast, but Luke needs help, and he's going to get in much bigger trouble if he doesn't bring R2-D2 back to the farm.

You realize that getting R2 to Alderaan is the top priority. You stay with Ben as Luke jumps in the landspeeder and rushes back to the farm alone. While he is gone, you help Ben make a funeral fire for the Jawas. When Luke returns, he is filled with rage and terrible grief. The stormtroopers have destroyed the farm and killed his aunt and uncle.

“There was nothing you could have done, Luke,” you say.

“Indeed,” Ben agrees. “If you had been there, you would have been killed as well, and the droids would now be in the hands of the Empire.”

“I want to come with you to Alderaan,” Luke says. “To learn the ways of the Force and become a Jedi like my father.”

"Master Luke!" 3PO cries. "They've found us, sir!"

Chewbacca roars, and Han agrees. "Let's move it, folks! No time for rescuing anybody but ourselves."

"But Leia . . . , " Luke starts to protest.

You stop him, grabbing his wrist.

"Luke," you say, "if they notice the tractor beam is off, we'll never get out of here, and Ben will have died for nothing. He left you here so that you could get R2 to the Rebellion in case he didn't make it. Don't let him down now."

You can hear the clattering of armored stormtroopers approaching, and Luke gives in. Stormtroopers burst into the landing bay as R2 and 3PO are slowly moving up the ramp. You and Luke stay below and return fire while Chewie and Han get the ship's engines fired.

"We are ready to go!" Han shouts from the ship. The ramp begins to close.

"There he is!" Luke cries. You see that Darth Vader has entered the landing bay with a platoon of stormtroopers.

"Follow me, flyboy. Somebody has to save our skins." Then she dives through the hole.

Luke follows, then Chewbacca. Han gestures for you to go next, so you fire a few more times and then dive in. Han follows on your heels. You land in a pile of garbage and two feet of sewer water. The stink is revolting, but at the moment being out of the range of blaster fire is more important than smelling good.

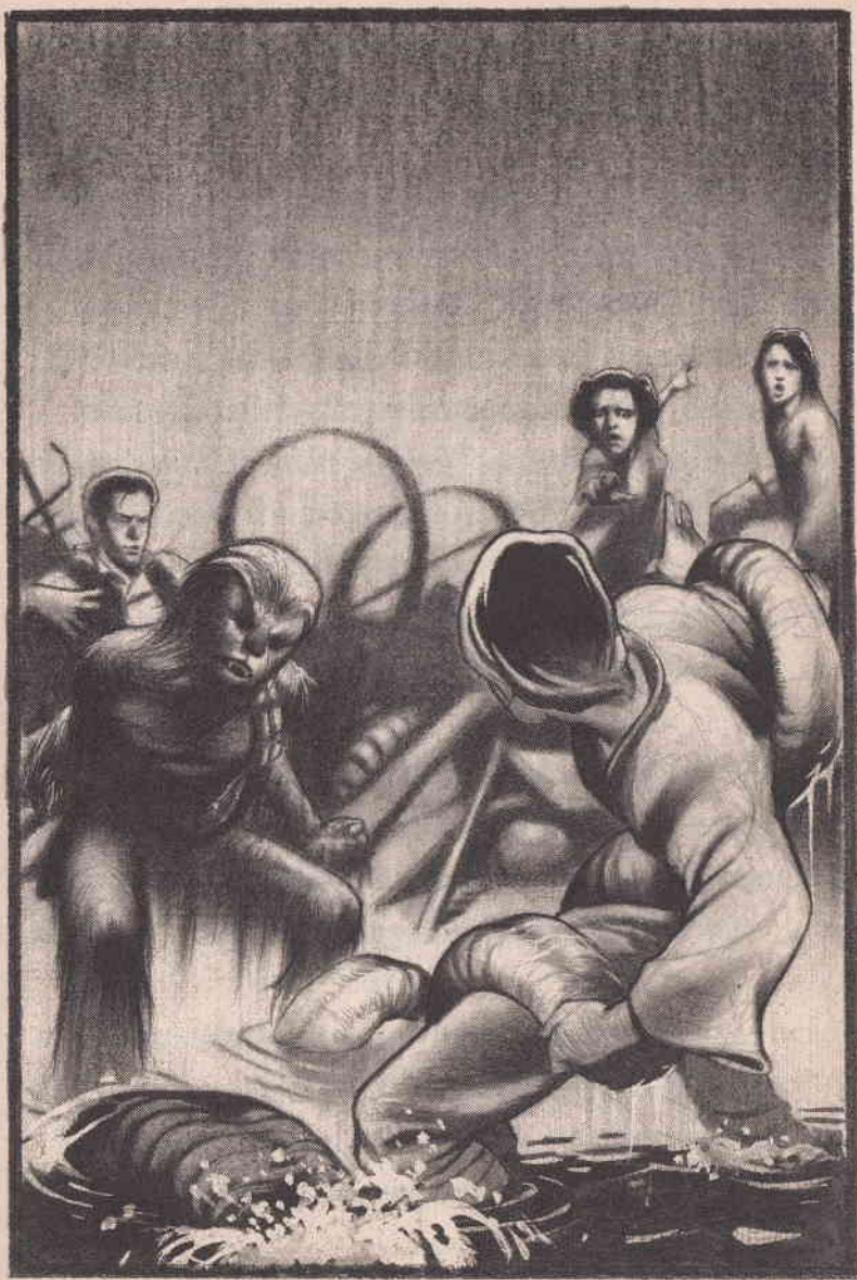
"There's something in here with us!" Luke shouts. You hear it, too, a splashing noise. You feel something passing in the water by your legs.

Suddenly Luke is pulled beneath the surface. You and Han reach under, trying to grab him. Leia screams, Chewbacca roars, and you can barely think. Luke surfaces with a huge, snakelike tentacle wrapped around his body, then he's dragged under again. A moment later he surfaces again, choking on sewer water and gasping for breath.

"What happened?" you ask. "How did you get away from that creature?"

"I didn't," he coughs. "It just . . . left. And fast."

Somewhere gears begin to click and whir, the sound of machine engines starting up.



Ben leads you to his small home. "It's simple, but shelter and basic comfort are all I require," he explains.

Ben walks to a corner, where he opens a small wooden chest and retrieves a metal cylinder that looks like a handle with buttons.

"I was once a Jedi Knight," Ben says.

"You're a Jedi?" you and Luke exclaim together.

"Yes," Ben continues. "A long time ago, when the Jedi were the guardians of peace and justice in the galaxy, I served alongside your father, Luke."

"My father wasn't a Jedi," Luke says. "He was a navigator on a spice freighter."

"That's what your uncle Owen wants you to think," Ben explains. "The life of a Jedi is dangerous, and your uncle doesn't want that for you. But your father was a cunning warrior and the best star pilot in the galaxy. He would have wanted you to have this."

Ben hands the cylinder to Luke. Luke presses a button, and a long beam of light flashes, extending out about a meter.

"It's a lightsaber, the weapon of a Jedi," Ben says.

“Yahooooooo!” you scream.

“Well, guess that’s the last time I order you to retreat!” Luke cries.

Suddenly a gruff voice comes over the comm. It’s Han! He and Chewie have come back!

“You’re all clear now, kid,” Han tells Luke. “Let’s blow this thing and go home.”

Luke does just that, firing right into the heat exhaust port and causing a chain reaction that blows up the entire Death Star. Luke’s X-wing and the *Falcon* barely make it out of the blast area in time.

But even as they are retreating, you come under attack again. Vader has regained control of his ship, and he’s coming after you.

“Hey!” you cry. “I need a hand over here, guys!”

You take a hit on your left wing, but nothing serious. Still, that means Vader is getting you locked on target. One more shot, and he’ll destroy you!

“I’ve got it, kid!” Han shouts.

“We’ve both got your back,” Luke adds.

They fire on Vader, and his ship explodes. The Dark Lord is no more.

As alarms clang and sirens wail, a stormtrooper runs up to you.

“Lieutenant!” he yells. “We’ve got several Rebel ships in our landing bay!”

“Why would they board the Death Star?” you shout. “They’re trying to blow up this station . . .”

Then it hits you. Princess Leia is one of the most important people in the Rebellion. When Luke and the others joined the Rebels, they must have learned that Leia’s ship had been taken by the Empire and realized that she was a prisoner aboard the Death Star. They’ve come to rescue her!

You’ve known Luke Skywalker your whole life. He would definitely have come along on such a crazy mission. You don’t want Luke to die, and if there’s any chance the Death Star will be destroyed, you’d like to get off the space station with him. You pray that he will understand why you had to reveal the Rebel base’s location.

“Come with me,” you tell the stormtrooper.

You go to the prison level with the stormtrooper and drag Leia from her cell.

"Neither," you answer. "You do what you have to do. My place is here with Luke."

"Well, good luck to you," Han says. Soon he and Chewbacca board the *Falcon* and take off.

A short time later, you buckle yourself into your X-wing fighter. You and Luke are both part of the Red Flight squadron.

When you launch, the fighters move into attack formation. The Death Star looms huge in your cockpit window. The attack begins, but you hang back. In a moment TIE fighters erupt from the belly of the Death Star, and you do all you can to prevent the TIEs from attacking the X-wings flying into the maintenance canyon on the space station. If they can't hit that heat exhaust port, the Rebel base will be destroyed.

"Watch your back, Luke!" you warn. "Fighters above you! Coming in!"

"I can't shake this TIE fighter!" Luke shouts.

"Hold on!" you cry. The fighter is in your sights. Your weapons flare, destroying the enemy ship.

"Thanks, old friend!" Luke says.

"Anytime!" you reply.

Luke runs with you, and you all board the ship. You are terribly upset over Ben's death, but Luke is nearly paralyzed with grief. Ben was a mentor—almost a father—to your friend.

Leia tries to comfort Luke.

"Vader's taken away everything I ever had," he says. "My father, my aunt and uncle, and now Ben."

"He destroyed my entire world, Luke. Millions of people," Leia says. "But I turn my pain into a purpose, something worthwhile. The defeat of the Empire and everything that people like Vader and Tarkin stand for."

"I'm with you," Luke says quietly.

"Me, too," you say. Then you whisper, "I'm sorry, Luke. Ben was a great man. If he hadn't turned off that tractor beam, and then sacrificed himself, we'd all be dead."

"Now, Captain," Tarkin says proudly, "you will issue the order for the execution of our Rebel captives. Then our triumph will be complete."

Your eyes go wide with horror. You glance at Luke, who now stares at you defiantly.

Vader approaches and whispers harshly in your ear. "Do it, or you will be the first to die."

"Execute the prisoners," you say, filled with shame and horror, the look in Luke's eyes burned in your brain forever.

You watch as your friends are taken away. You suddenly realize that one day, sooner or later, Tarkin or Vader or some other Imperial commander will have some minor complaint against you or your performance as an officer. Then it will be you who is escorted to your execution.

From that moment on, you live in terror, the guilt of what you've done weighing like stone on your conscience.

THE END

"Wow, with all that blasting, it's a wonder the whole station doesn't know we're here," Luke says.

"Bring 'em on!" Han snarls. "I'd prefer a straight fight to all this sneaking around."

"Yeah, that's a good idea," you say sarcastically. "A few hundred thousand Imperial soldiers against five blasters and two droids."

"Watch it, kid," Han snaps at you.

R2 beeps and whistles, drawing your attention.

"Excuse me, Master Luke," 3PO says, "but R2 has accessed the main computer, and he's found the control to the tractor beam."

"Great!" Luke cries. "Let's go."

"No, Luke," Ben says. "I must do this alone. You must see the droids delivered safely to the Rebellion, or other systems will suffer the same fate as Alderaan. Your destiny lies along a different path than mine. The Force will be with you . . . always!"

“Forget it, Luke!” you snap. “I’m not cutting out on you now!”

“You’ve got to!” he replies over the comlink. “If anything happens to me, someone’s got to survive who is strong in the Force, who won’t let people forget the Jedi. You’ve got to follow the path and learn about the Jedi. Find someone who can train you, if there are any teachers left!”

“You talk as if you were going to die,” you say quietly.

“Nobody wants to die, but this isn’t exactly a day on the farm,” Luke replies. “Now follow orders. Retreat.”

Reluctantly you obey. On the way back to the Rebel base, you can hear the final moments of the attack on the Death Star over the comm.

“Hurry, Luke!” one of the Rebel pilots shouts. “They’re coming in much faster this time! I can’t hold them!”

"I'm not lying," you say, wishing you were.

"Excellent," Vader replies. "We were going to destroy Alderaan, but with the plans for the Death Star in Rebel hands, we must move to quickly destroy their base on Yavin 4. Then we may worry about other displays of power for the Emperor."

Vader orders stormtroopers to get you a proper uniform for a lieutenant in the Imperial Navy and then leaves you on the bridge. He has fulfilled his side of the bargain. You have sided with the Empire, but the guilt you feel at betraying your friends is great. You console yourself with the knowledge that you saved Luke and the entire planet of Alderaan. The Rebels still have the plans for the Death Star. It's possible that they will still be able to use them.

Less than a standard day later, shortly before the commanders of the Death Star plan to destroy Yavin 4, Rebel forces launch a heavy attack on the space station as X-wing fighters dive into the wide central trench around the Death Star. Grand Moff Tarkin thinks their attack is ridiculous, but you overhear an engineer say that if the Rebels hit the right spot, the Death Star could be destroyed.

Han dashes up the ramp and closes it behind him. Then he runs to the cockpit and drops into the pilot's seat.

"Imperial troops, I'd imagine?" Ben says, as calmly as if you weren't in any danger at all.

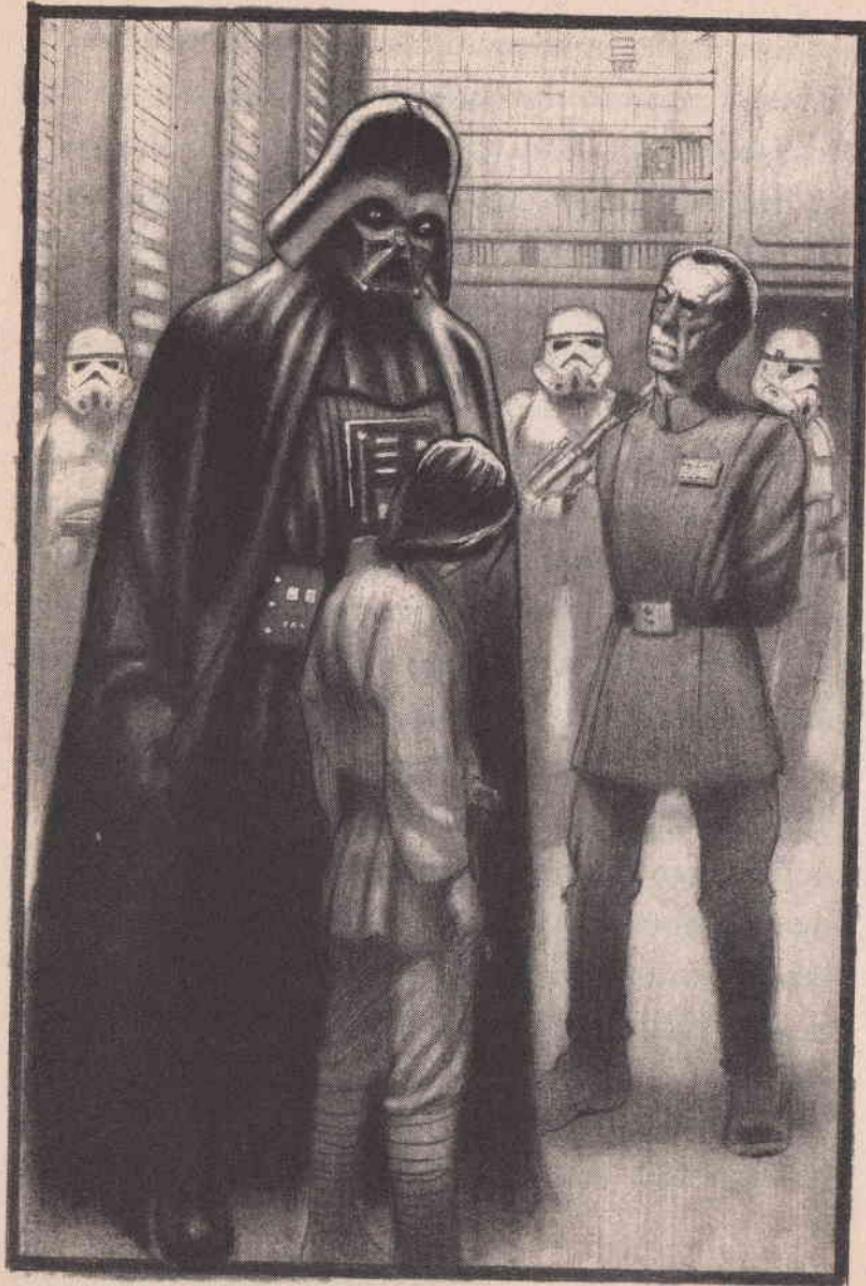
"Yeah, somebody doesn't want us taking off without clearance," Han replies gruffly. "They're in for a rude awakening."

To your surprise, the *Falcon* performs as well as Han bragged. Seconds later, the ship roars up into the sky over Tatooine and then into the atmosphere of the planet, dodging fire from the ground. In space, you discover two giant vessels several thousand times larger than Han Solo's little freighter.

"Imperial Cruisers!" Han shouts. "You guys are even more popular with the Empire than I thought!"

"To know us is to love us," you joke, but Han isn't in the mood for laughing. And neither is anybody else.

The Cruisers give chase.



"No," you say, "I'm Luke Skywalker's friend."

"Luke who?" she asks.

"Oh, right, you don't know. I helped Luke get R2-D2 and your message to Ben Kenobi," you explain.

"No!" she cries. "Kenobi has been captured too?"

"No, no," you explain. "He and Luke took the droids and hired a smuggler to get to Alderaan. They'll get there, Princess. You can count on Luke."

"A smuggler?" Leia asks bitterly.

Suddenly the door to your cell whooshes open. Two stormtroopers enter. They grab you and drag you away. *Here it comes*, you think. *They're going to kill me.*

Instead, you're dragged to the command deck of the Death Star. A gray-haired older man in the uniform of a high-ranking Imperial officer and a very tall man in black armor and a black flowing cape stare down at you. The black-armored man is the most terrifying being you have ever seen. You're so scared you can't even look at him.

Luke leaps from the closing ramp and starts blasting away at Vader. Vader's lightsaber erupts in pure energy, and he easily deflects the blaster bolts.

"Han!" you cry. "Hold on. Luke's gone crazy!"

You leap down after Luke as the ramp stops halfway up.

"Luke, come on!" you cry. "You're going to get us all killed!"

"You go!" he shouts. "Vader killed my father, and now he's killed Ben. I can't let him live!"

You grab Luke by the shoulders and spin him to face you.

"You'll have another chance, Luke," you say. "I promise! But now we've got to go. The Rebellion comes first!"

Luke hesitates, then nods. He fires off another round at Vader and then turns to see Chewbacca on the ramp, reaching down to lift you both up into the *Falcon*.

“We’re going to do fine,” you whisper to him. Inside, though, you wonder if you’re crazy to go up against the Death Star. Like Luke, you’re a good pilot, but you’ve never flown in combat.

Later, you find Han and Chewbacca, who have received their reward for rescuing Princess Leia and are packing up to leave before the Death Star arrives.

“You know,” Han says, “you’re calm in a fight, and pretty good with a blaster. You could come with us if you want, instead of sticking around here to get obliterated when the Death Star shows up.”

Chewbacca roars what you assume is his agreement. Before you can reply, Luke approaches, staring at Han with a bitter look on his face.

“So you’re going to leave, just like that?” Luke says. You notice that Chewbacca has looked away, as if he is uncomfortable about going.

“Yeah, just like that,” Han replies. “This isn’t my fight, kid.”

“It will be if the Empire defeats the Rebel Alliance,” Luke argues.

“You could come with us,” Han suggests.

"Listen, kids," Han snarls angrily. "She may not look like much, but she'll make point five past light-speed, and she can outrun any Imperial ship. Plus, she's armed to the teeth. You'd better watch it. Chewie and I are kind of sensitive about people making fun of our ship."

"I'm sure it happens a lot," you mumble. Han glares at you.

Moments later, you board the ship. Han, who is doing a last-minute check on the ship's exterior, is the only one not on board when the blaster fire starts.

"Han!" you cry, as you and Luke rush to the ramp to help him in. Chewbacca roars, and Ben translates, telling you to keep your seats, that Captain Solo will be along in a moment.

"Oh, my," C-3PO says worriedly behind you. "I hope we'll be all right."

R2 beeps and whistles.

"Well, yes, of course I realize that Capain Solo is in jeopardy also, but I . . . oh, never mind, you insufferable rust bucket," 3PO huffs.

Even as Vader's stormtroopers fire on the ship, the ramp closes and the *Millenium Falcon* rockets out of the space station landing bay, free of the tractor beam.

Unfortunately, though you have the plans for the space station hidden inside R2, only Leia knows the location of the secret Rebel base. For weeks, Han uses all his contacts to try to get in touch with the Rebellion. When, finally, the curtain of secrecy is drawn aside, it is too late. The Death Star, the battle station upon which Ben was killed, has already discovered and destroyed the hidden Rebel base.

It isn't total victory for either side. You have the plans for the Death Star, and a tyrant like the Emperor always breeds rebellion. Surely you and your friends can raise Rebel forces of your own. But that will take time. The fight against the Empire will rage on with no clear victory for many years.

THE END

You look around for Luke to help, but he's already run down into the cell block to find Princess Leia. Then your toe hits the unmoving body of one of the detention officers Chewbacca blasted. His cap has been knocked off, and inside, on the band, is a nine-digit number.

It could be nothing, a way to identify laundry, maybe. But it's your only chance.

"I'm getting impatient!" the officer barks over the comm.

"I'm sorry, sir," you say. "I was just issuing orders to have this wild man locked up until we can get a psych evaluator down here. If you want to send a pair of stormtroopers to escort him up to the med-psych unit, by all means do so. He's obviously not in his right mind, though. Send your toughest troopers. This guy is dangerous, sir.

"And my operating number is 527-345009, sir. I'd appreciate it if you would include me in your report of this incident," you say, hoping that by sounding as if you want credit for stopping the rampage of a crazed soldier, you may convince the officer that you're really who you say you are.

When you land at the Rebel base, you plan a Rebel attack against the giant space station Leia calls the Death Star. Using the plans hidden in R2, Rebel engineers find a flaw in the space station. Thanks to Luke's flying and aim, and your and Han's backup, the Death Star is destroyed, and Darth Vader is lost in space in a crippled spacecraft.

With the destruction of the Death Star and the return of the order of the Jedi, the Empire is dealt several blows from which it will never recover.

As time passes, Ben Kenobi begins a new Jedi training program. You and Luke are his first students, and a short time later, Leia joins the school as well.

THE END

You set off across the desert in Luke's landspeeder with C-3PO at the controls. You and Luke search the horizon with handheld scanners, trying to find some trace of R2.

"I can't believe you're letting a droid pilot your speeder," you say.

C-3PO seems upset. "I'll have you know that piloting ground-effect vehicles like Master Luke's landspeeder is one of the secondary functions for which I have been programmed," he sniffs. "In addition, it leaves Master Luke free to scan for some sign of R2."

You look over and see that Luke is smiling. "I forgot to mention that C-3PO's a bit sensitive," he says.

The landspeeder whips over the wasteland, just a few feet above the sand. For nearly an hour you don't see anything. No sign of the tiny scavengers called Jawas who sold the droids to Luke's uncle, or even of the Sand People called Tusken Raiders, who savagely attack, rob, and sometimes even kill anyone coming into their territory.

"There's nothing here," you say, hoping Luke will turn around soon. You've been gone too long, and your parents are likely to be pretty angry.

"I'm tellin' ya," Wuher roars to a pair of stormtroopers leaning against the bar, "I just don't get this whole Rebellion business. I mean, we don't bother the Emperor, and he don't bother us. Am I right? What does it matter to a little backwater planet like Tatooine who's in charge? Heck, we don't *want* anybody to notice us."

The stormtroopers seem to laugh along with Wuher, but you are angered by his words. The Emperor is evil, a tyrant who enslaves whole planets. But you're sure not about to say that out loud.

"Unfortunately, not everyone is smart enough to see that," a stormtrooper admits, his voice sounding electric through the white helmet of his armor. "We actually chased a ship out of here today, the *Millennium Falcon*, filled with Rebels. But they're in for trouble, all right. We're searching for them all over the galaxy."

Oh, no, you think. Luke is in for it now.

You worry about Luke, Ben, and even Princess Leia. You start to wish you had gone with Luke in the first place.

"I want to know more about the Force, Ben," Luke says. "Does it control your actions?"

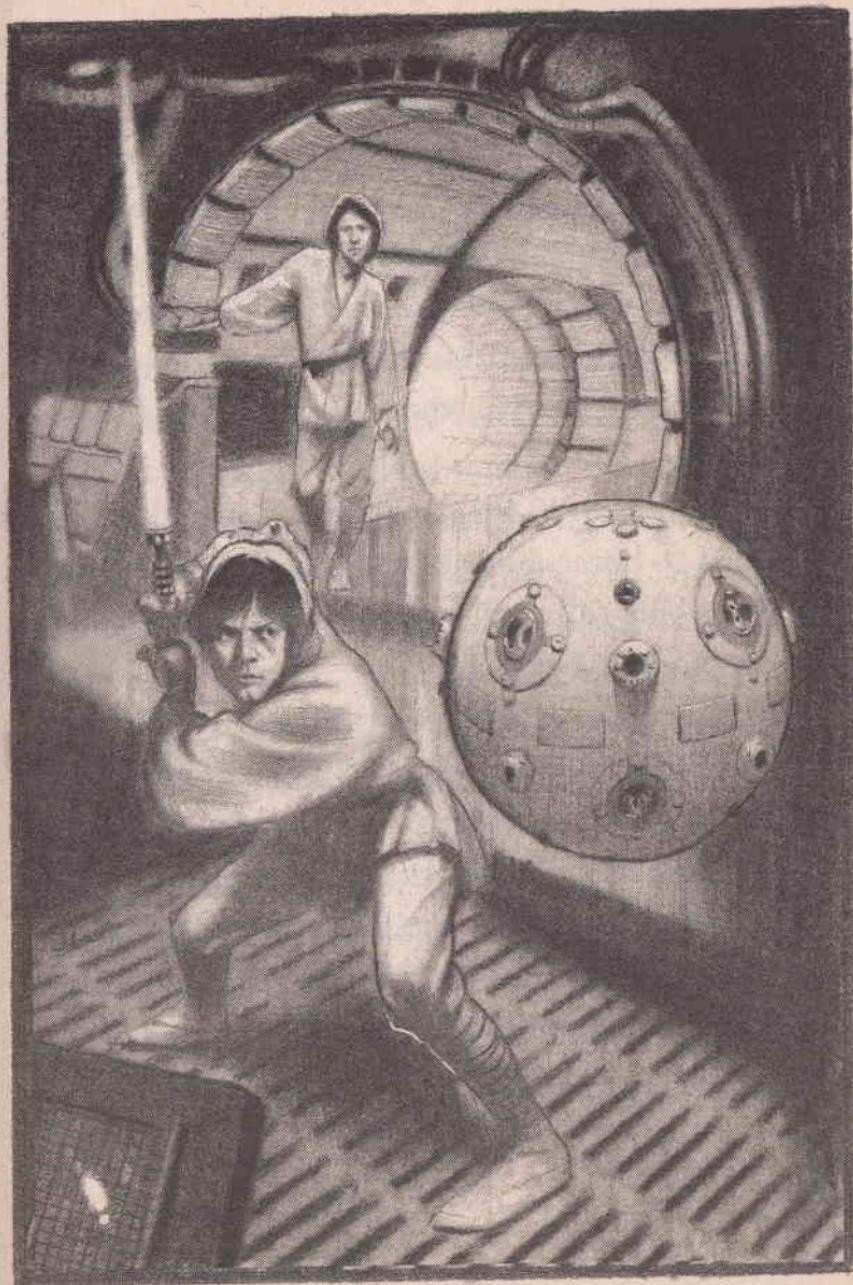
"Partially," Ben tells him. "But it also obeys your commands. Mastery of the Force demands calm and patience. I'm going to teach you both how to sense the power that exists in all things, that binds us and connects us to the universe and to each other."

And so Ben begins to teach you and Luke how to feel the Force, to use it as an extension of your senses. You train quite a bit, using Luke's lightsaber to deflect energy bolts shot at you from a small hovering ball. You have some success in your training and can block some of the shots, but Luke surges ahead immediately. Obviously, he has far more natural talent as a Jedi than you do.

Suddenly Ben cries out in pain and holds a hand to his head. You and Luke reach out to steady him.

"What is it, Ben?" you ask.

"I felt a great disturbance in the Force, as if millions of voices suddenly cried out in terror and were quickly silenced. I fear that something terrible has happened."



You realize you can't just leave your family and your life on Tatooine. Plus, if you try to find Luke on your own, sooner or later someone is sure to identify you as having been with Luke, Ben, and the droids, and you'll be arrested. The stormtroopers might even attack your parents and destroy your farm the way they did Luke's aunt and uncle's. You can't take that risk; you must leave Mos Eisley immediately.

You thank Capri Otti for the message and tell her you must go home. She helps you find someone who will give you a ride, and you walk out of the cantina without looking back.

At home, your parents are thrilled you have returned. Your mother has been especially worried about you. You work hard on the farm and occasionally hear stories about the daring Rebels defying the Emperor. You never see Luke Skywalker again, but you think of him, and of the Rebellion, every night as you look up at the stars.

THE END

Vader leaves you on the bridge after ordering stormtroopers to get you the proper uniform of a lieutenant in the Imperial Navy. You hate the idea of wearing the Imperial insignia, but you must pretend to support the Empire until you can escape.

Fortunately you don't have to wait long. Less than a standard day later, shortly before the Death Star comes in scanner range of Dantooine, you come under heavy attack by Rebel forces.

With alarms clangng and sirens wailing, you slip away to the prison level, where you blast several stormtroopers and free Princess Leia. On your way to the launch deck, you come upon a major firefight in progress. The *Millenium Falcon* is in the middle of the landing bay. Rebel forces and stormtroopers are engaged in a vicious fight. From a distance you can see that leading the Rebels are several familiar faces, including Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and the huge Wookiee.

"Luke!" you cry, drawing his attention.

"Come on!" he shouts. "This whole place is going to blow!"

"Strap yourselves in, folks!" Han calls from the front of the ship. "We're going to be dropping out of hyperspace in a minute. We're coming up on Alderaan."

A moment later the ship lurches.

"What the . . . !!! Chewie, increase power to deflector shields!" Han shouts.

"What is it?" you ask.

"We've dropped out of hyperspace right in the middle of some kind of meteor shower," Han replies.

"There shouldn't be anything like that near Alderaan," Ben says anxiously.

Chewbacca roars his agreement.

"Well, our position is correct," Han snaps.
"But . . . Alderaan is gone."

You shoot out the cameras in the prison block, and Luke silences the blaring alarm. You are now in the prison control room. From outside the block, an officer is shouting questions over the comm in response to the alarm.

“Detention level AA-23, what’s happening? What’s going on down there?” the voice on the comm asks anxiously.

Han goes to the console. He’s nervous, and you worry that he won’t know the right thing to say to the officer. If he can only figure out the right procedure or codes to keep the stormtroopers from investigating for a few minutes, you’ll be gone.

“Uh, this is detention level AA-23. Ah, everything is under control down here. Situation normal,” Han says. “We had a slight, um, weapons malfunction, but, uh, everything’s perfectly all right now. We’re all fine here now, thank you. Um, how are you?”

Bad move.

Ben and Leia greet each other warmly, and Ben tells her how sorry he is about the fate of Alderaan and of her father.

“Sorry to break this up, folks,” Han says quietly, “but if we don’t get moving, they’ll have that tractor beam back on and we’ll never get out of here.”

“Quite right,” Ben says.

Luke uses his communicator to reach 3PO, and the droids are already on the ramp of the *Falcon* when you enter the landing bay. As they turn to greet you, they suddenly shout in alarm. Stormtroopers are coming up behind you! But you are far enough ahead to escape. You and Luke fire blaster rifles at them to hold them off, and the ship’s engines ignite. You scramble on board as the ramp closes, and the ship rockets away.

“There!” Luke shouts.

You look up to see R2 trundling along the hard-packed desert sand.

When you catch up with the droid, Luke is in a rush to take it back to the farm. But R2 beeps and whistles, and C-3PO translates. Apparently he needs to see Obi-Wan Kenobi. As Luke tries to turn the little droid around, R2’s whistles suddenly get louder and frantic.

“What’s that he’s saying, C-3PO?” you ask.

“Oh, dear,” C-3PO says fearfully. “R2 says there are several creatures of an unknown type approaching from the southeast!”

“Sand People!” Luke cries. “Let’s take a look!”

“We’re doomed,” C-3PO wails. “Shouldn’t we find somewhere to hide instead?”

Luke agrees with C-3PO, and you help him hide the two droids behind some rocky outcroppings. You and Luke climb to the top of a small hill. With scanners, you search for signs of the Sand People. You see a pair of banthas—the huge, hairy creatures they ride—but no Sand People.

The next night you go to work at the cantina again. A few hours later, Capri Otti returns.

"I told your parents more about your situation than you wrote in the note," she admits. "I know Han Solo, and I know about your friends dodging the Imperials on the *Falcon*."

She must have been convincing, because the note from your parents says that they're proud of you and will support whatever decision you make. At the same time, they miss you and wish you were home. Along with their message, your parents have sent a lot of money.

Now that you have the money and your parents' approval, you can do whatever you want.

**IF YOU GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILY,
TURN TO PAGE 52.**

**IF YOU HIRE A SHIP TO WARN LUKE
OF HIS DANGER, TURN TO PAGE 95.**

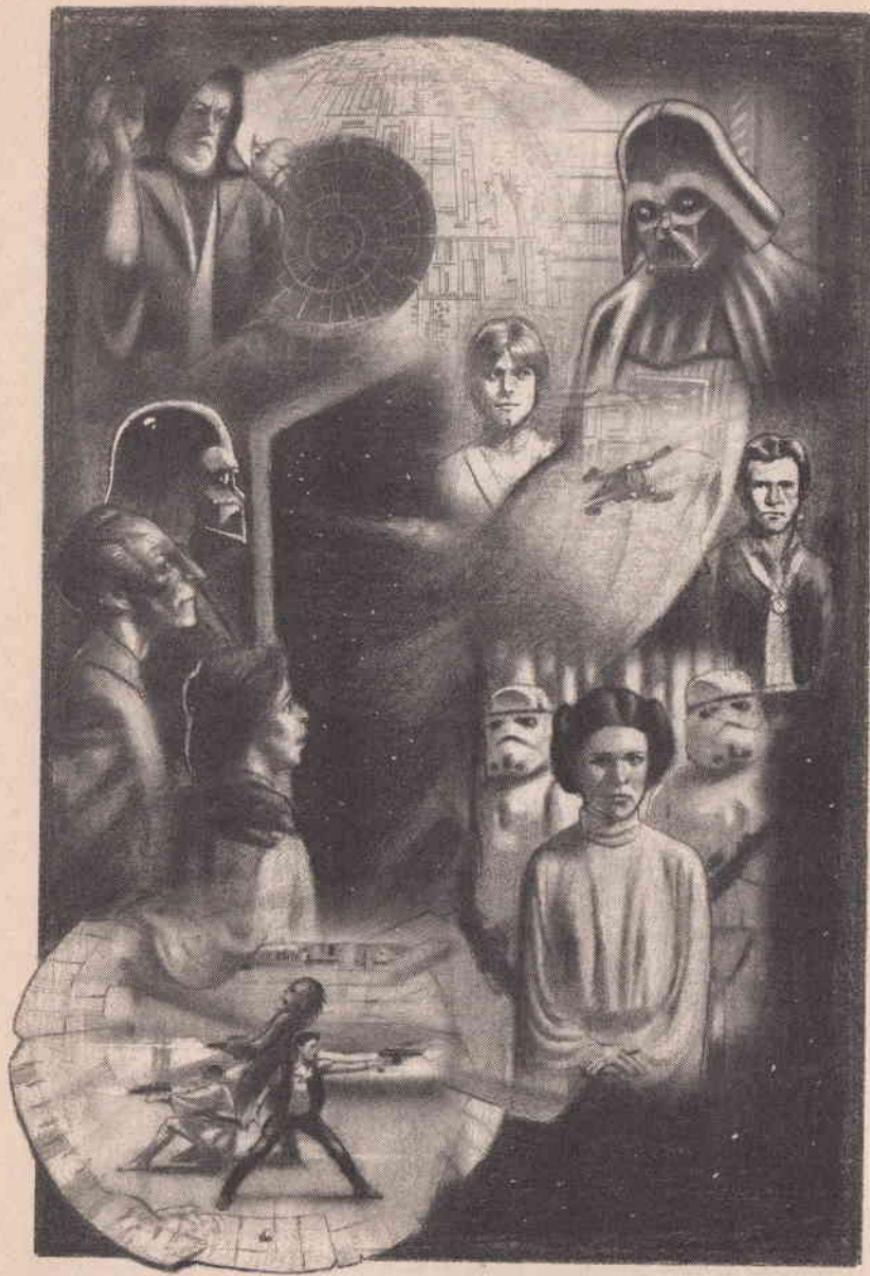
“Listen, Luke,” you say. “Ben told us to wait here. I mean, he used to be a Jedi Knight, right? He knows what he’s doing, and I think we should wait until he comes back to decide what to do next.”

“But . . . they’re going to kill her,” Luke argues. “We can’t just leave her there.”

“Okay,” Han says. “Listen up. Even if you’re right, and we have a reason to go running off on some suicide mission to rescue a girl I’ve never even seen . . .” Han points at you. “Your friend here is right. The old man is running this show, at least for the moment. We should wait for him to come back. If he can’t turn the tractor beam off, nobody’s leaving here anyway.”

Luke glares at you, defeated. He must have expected you to help convince Han, you realize. But you’re not eager to get yourself killed.

“Sorry,” you say, and shrug.



Later, a huge celebration is held to mark this major victory for the Rebel Alliance. Princess Leia presides over a ceremony where you, Chewbacca, Luke, and Han are presented with medals for your service to the Alliance. As you watch your friends get their medals you remember the amazing moments that lead to a Rebel victory. Your decisions have changed the fate of the galaxy.

THE END

“We’re sending a squad down to your location right now,” the officer says.

“Oh, negative, negative,” Han says, fumbling. “We had a . . . a reactor leak down here. Give us a few minutes to lock it down. Large leak . . . very dangerous.”

“Who is this?” the officer barks. “What’s your operating number?”

You see that Han has run out of patience, but you need to keep the stormtroopers away for a few more minutes. Your actions may spell the difference between getting everyone off the space station alive and getting everyone killed.

**IF YOU TAKE OVER THE CONSOLE,
TURN TO PAGE 67.**

**IF YOU LET HAN BLAST AWAY,
TURN TO PAGE 20.**

In the distance, you hear a terrifying roar that frightens even the Tusken Raider. But it doesn't stop your attacker from hitting you with its club.

You fall to the sand. The Raider continues to hit you. A few seconds later, the Sand People are frightened off by some kind of bizarre creature approaching. Up on the ridge, Luke catches his breath, bruised and battered from the fight but too weak to run from the noise. He'll be all right. But it is too late for you. You pass out on the desert floor, unconscious and fatally wounded.

THE END

“You again!” she shouts. “What do you want from me now? Isn’t it enough that you’ve betrayed the entire Rebellion? Have you come to execute me now?”

“Quiet!” you bark. “Your Rebel friends have boarded this station. I’m going to bring you to them.”

The stormtrooper stops in his tracks.

“I’m sorry, Lieutenant,” he says. “I can’t do that.”

“Escort the prisoner. That’s an order!” you snap. “We’re not handing the Princess over, we’re using her as bait. The threat of her death will make the others surrender. That will please Vader.”

You and the stormtrooper hurry Leia toward the landing bay.

**IF YOU DECIDE TO USE LEIA TO FORCE
THE REBELS TO SURRENDER,
GO TO PAGE 84.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO AID THE REBELS AND
HELP LEIA ESCAPE, GO TO PAGE 23.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO PLAY IT BY EAR,
GO TO PAGE 93.**

Luke introduces himself, Han Solo, and Chewbacca to the Princess. Leia is very gracious. She doesn't say anything about your earlier betrayal, for which you are grateful.

"Let's get out of here now," Luke says. "This whole place is going to go!"

Just then more stormtroopers rush in. You and the other Rebels blast at them. You all dash aboard the *Millenium Falcon*. You have barely pulled the ramp closed behind you when you see Vader striding toward you in a rage.

As the *Falcon* blasts out of the landing bay, you breathe a long sigh of relief. Behind you, the Death Star suddenly explodes. Obviously the Rebels put the plans Leia stashed in R2 to good use.

"Ben Kenobi sends his best," Luke tells Leia. "He's on Alderaan with your father, and we're headed back that way now."

Then Luke turns to you and points at your uniform. "I want to hear all about your adventures in the Imperial Navy," he says with a smile.

“What do you mean, ‘gone’?” Luke asks. “Where is it?”

“That’s what I’m trying to tell you, kid,” Han says. “Alderaan’s been totally blown away. It ain’t there.”

“Destroyed by the Empire!” Ben whispers. “I should have realized when I felt that disturbance earlier . . .”

“An entire starfleet couldn’t destroy a whole planet,” Han says. “It’d take a thousand ships, with more firepower than I’ve ever—”

Han is interrupted by a beeping on the console. The *Millenium Falcon* is passed by an Imperial TIE fighter. Everyone is confused. It’s a short-range ship, and there are no planets close enough for it to have been launched from.

“Catch it before it can report in about our location!” you say.

“It’s headed for that small moon!” Luke points. You see the moon in the distance.

His voice filled with dread, Ben says, “That’s no moon. That’s a space station.”

Han points his blaster at the communications console, but you step in front of him before he can fire.

“Han, no!” you say.

You turn to the console.

“I asked for your operating number!” the officer barks.

“I’m sorry, sir,” you bluff. “We had a detention officer go a bit stir-crazy down here. He discharged his own weapons, shot the place up a bit, and then started babbling on about radiation.”

“What kind of a show are you running down there?” the officer asks angrily. “And what is *your* operating number?”

That is a question you don’t want to have to answer. Obviously, this must be how they recognize one another, you think. By number rather than name. But how can you just make up a number? The officer is sure to know it’s a fake.

You spot three ships in the trench on the surface of the Death Star.

“What are they doing down there?” Han asks.

“You should have gone to the briefing,” you say. “They’re making a run for the exhaust port, trying to destroy the entire space station.”

“There are Imperial fighters following them in that trench,” Han says. “Two TIEs and an odd one.”

You feel a strange tug within you, and it frightens you. You realize it is something dark within the Force, and suddenly you know who is piloting the lead Imperial ship in the trench.

“It’s Vader,” you say.

Han stares at you. “Don’t tell me you’re into all that hocus-pocus garbage, too,” he says.

“Okay, I won’t tell you,” you reply, and smile.

“Oh, boy,” Han grumbles. You start to listen to the communications between the Rebel ships.

“Hurry, Luke!” one of the Rebel pilots shouts over the comm. “They’re coming in much faster this time! I can’t hold them!”

Then you hear the pilot cry out as his X-wing is shot down. Luke groans in anger but keeps flying.

You decide to stay and fight. Even though you know your situation is hopeless, you can't abandon your best friend. Both of you are knocked down, and you can hear Luke grunt in pain as one of the Tusken Raiders clubs you in the shoulder and then on the head. As you are about to black out, you hear a horrible roar, like the hunting cry of a krayt dragon.

The noise scares the Sand People away, and just in time. Another few blows, and you and Luke might have been killed. You sit up, groggy, and stare at the hooded figure coming toward you. The figure pulls back its hood. You recognize the bearded, white-haired old man immediately.

“Ben Kenobi!” you cry.

“And hello to you, too,” Ben replies. “Is that Luke Skywalker with you?”

You shake Luke back to consciousness. He is just as surprised to see Ben as you are.

“We sure are lucky you came along,” you tell Ben.

“The Jundland Wastes are not to be traveled lightly,” Ben says. “What brings you two out this far?”

"Han," you say, "he won't make it without us."

"Well, that's why we came back, kid!" Han snaps. Chewbacca roars his agreement.

The Rebel Commander's voice comes over the comm next. "Luke," he says, "you have thirty seconds before the Death Star is in range to fire on Yavin 4!"

"I'm going in . . . no! I'm hit! I've lost R2!" Luke shouts.

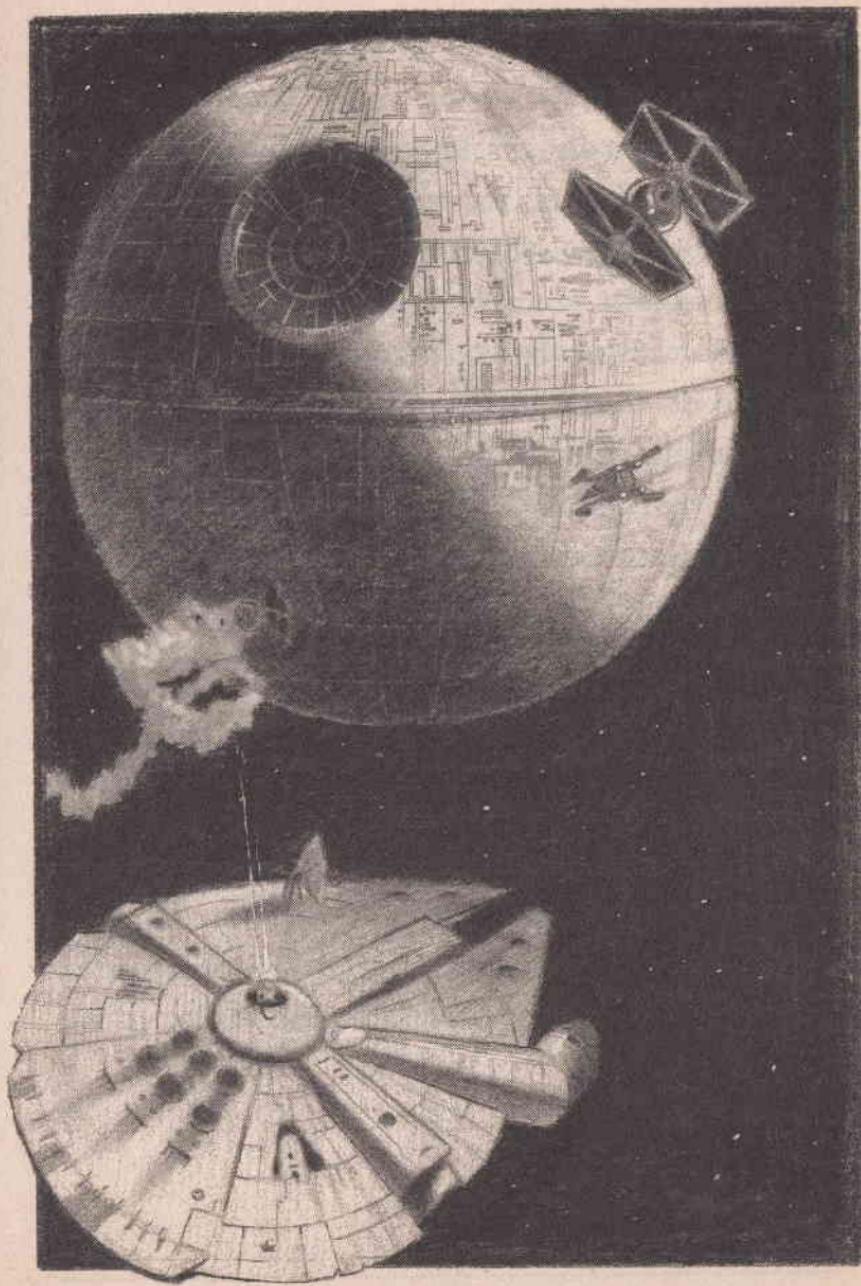
You can see that the lead ship, the one you believe is piloted by Vader, is firing on Luke. His X-wing has been hit, but he's closing fast on his target. You know Luke is a good pilot, and you know he can hit that exhaust port if he's given the chance. But Vader could destroy his ship before Luke ever gets a shot off.

"Han!" you cry.

"I'm on it!" Han yells.

The *Millenium Falcon* whips toward the surface of the Death Star, and Han fires on the ships pursuing Luke. One of them is destroyed. Vader's ship spins wildly out of control and disappears into space.

"Yahooooooooo!" Han screams.



You decide that keeping Luke alive—and keeping yourself alive as well—are more important goals than the security of the Rebel base. Even if the base is destroyed, you reason, the Rebels may come back over time to defeat the Empire. You must think of your friends and yourself first.

You know Leia won't understand what you're about to do, but you have chosen to save her life, Luke's, and your own, no matter what the cost.

"I'm sorry," you say, and turn away from her, going to the door to your cell.

"Sorry?" she asks. "What for?"

You pound on the door and call for the guards to come let you out.

"What are you doing?" Leia shouts, enraged. "You traitor! You can't tell them, or we're all dead! Don't you understand?!"

"I'm sorry," you say again. "It's best for all of us this way, Princess. I've been offered a commission in the Imperial Navy and have a responsibility to the Empire."

"Han?" Luke shouts in return. "Han, you came back!"

Han looks over at you and smiles, then turns to the comlink again.

"You're all clear now, kid," he tells Luke. "Let's blow this thing and go home."

Luke does just that, firing right into the thermal exhaust port and causing a chain reaction that blows up the entire Death Star. Luke's X-wing and the *Falcon* barely make it out of the blast area in time.

"You did it, Luke!" you cry. Chewbacca roars his praise as well.

"Great shot, kid," Han shouts. "That was one in a million."

The Rebellion has taken a decisive victory in the battle against the Empire. The tide of war has turned, and it won't be long now before the Empire is crushed completely. But you feel a terrible guilt about your earlier betrayal of Leia, even though you were only trying to do what you thought was best. It's a guilt that, in spite of Leia's silence, will haunt you for your entire life. You are determined to fight bravely against the Emperor until the galaxy is safe from his evil, hoping to somehow make up for your betrayal.

Eventually, Ben Kenobi will start a new order of Jedi Knights, with you, Luke, and Leia as his first students.

THE END

“What?” Han barks. “You’re even crazier than I thought, old man! Look at the size of that thing! It’s way too big to be a space—”

Chewbacca growls in distress. Han stares out of the cockpit.

“I have a very bad feeling about this,” Luke says.

“Han!” you say. “Ben’s right. Turn the ship around.”

“Yeah, good idea,” Han grumbles.

But Han can’t turn the ship around. The huge space station has the *Falcon* in a tractor beam too powerful to break. Han is forced to shut the power down and wait to be pulled aboard the station.

“They’re not going to get me without a fight,” Han declares.

“You can’t win,” Ben sadly announces. “But there are alternatives to fighting.”

Chewie unsnaps his harness and stands up, growling something to Han.

“You’re right, Chewie,” Han says. “It’s our only chance. Come on, people, get moving,” he continues. “We don’t want anybody finding us when the Imperials come aboard the ship.”

Before long, you arrive at Yavin 4, the fourth moon of the planet Yavin, where the Rebel base is located. Soon you learn that the Death Star is en route to Yavin 4 as well. The Imperials must have placed a homing beacon on board the *Falcon* and tracked your journey. But the Rebels are prepared. They've got the plans for the Death Star now, and Rebel engineers have found a small flaw in the space station. You sit with Luke at a briefing.

"There is a deep trench running around the outside of the Death Star, at the end of which is a small heat exhaust porthole. A direct hit by proton torpedoes will reach the main reactor of the Death Star, causing a chain reaction that will blow up the entire station."

"But nobody can hit a target that small!" one of the pilots argues.

"Well, we'll have to, won't we?" you say.

"We used to bull's-eye womp rats in my T-16 back home, and they're not much bigger!" Luke says.

"Coming from a kid who's never flown in combat, that isn't reassuring," another pilot says. Luke doesn't reply.

“Come on, Han!” Luke snaps. “Look around. You know what these people are up against! They could use a good pilot like you.”

“What good’s a reward if you ain’t around to spend it?” Han says. “Besides, attacking the Death Star isn’t courageous. It’s suicidal.”

“Well,” Luke says grimly, “take care of yourself, Han. I guess that’s what you’re best at, isn’t it?”

Luke walks off. Han calls after him, obviously upset by Luke’s words.

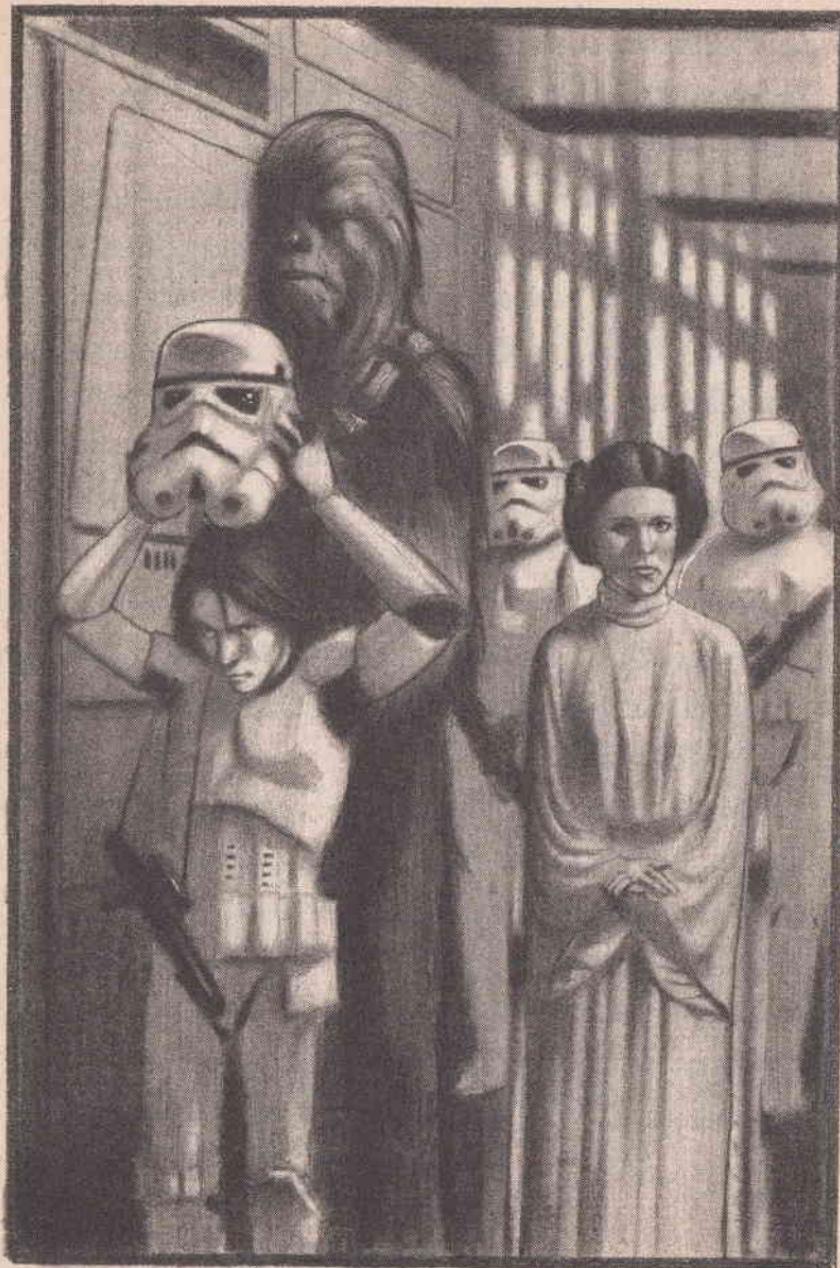
“Hey, Luke! May the Force be with you,” Han says.

Instead of replying to Han, Luke looks at you. “Maybe you can talk some sense into him,” he says, and walks away.

Han looks at you now. “So,” he says, “are you going to give me grief, or are you going to come along with me, before it’s too late?”

**IF YOU DECIDE TO GO WITH HAN,
TURN TO PAGE 5.**

**IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY,
TURN TO PAGE 33.**



"From the looks of my rescue squad, I might be better off," Leia retorts, but you can tell that she's being sarcastic.

It occurs to you that Leia and Han are not all that different. As they continue to argue, you and Luke put your stormtrooper helmets back on, and Han follows suit. You put shackles back on Chewie and walk behind the Wookiee and Leia with blasters.

"You really think this will work?" Leia asks doubtfully. "You guys don't look a lot like stormtroopers."

"It's how we got down here, Princess," you say.

And it does work. In no time you're back on the same level as the landing bay. In the corridor, you meet up with Ben, who is sneaking along, somehow undiscovered by the stormtroopers. It must be his command of the Force, you reason. He must somehow be controlling the soldiers so that they don't notice him. Incredible!

Suddenly the Rebel Commander comes over the comlink.

"Red Flight, Gold Flight has failed in their attack run on the maintenance canyon. You'll have to go in!" the Commander shouts. "Luke, you're Red Leader now."

You gasp. Already so many Rebel pilots have been shot down that Luke, who has never flown in combat before, must take the responsibility of being the leader. But you know he's up to it.

"I'm right behind you, buddy," you say.

"No," Luke says. "I'm sorry, but I order you to return to base now. There's nothing you can do out here. Wedge and Biggs will watch my back, and your parents would never forgive me if I got you killed."

"A little too late for that, isn't it, Luke?" you ask, hurt, angry and surprised that he wants you to bow out of the fight.

"That's an order!" Luke snaps.

**IF YOU FOLLOW LUKE ON HIS ATTACK ON
THE DEATH STAR, TURN TO PAGE 116.**

**IF YOU RETURN TO THE REBEL BASE,
TURN TO PAGE 37.**

Then you hear the pilot cry out as his X-wing is shot down and explodes. Luke roars with anger and sadness but keeps flying. Your fear grows. You can feel the Force a bit, and sometimes you think Ben is speaking to you in a whisper, but you can't really hear him. You aren't cut out to be a Jedi, you think. At least not without the proper training. But Luke . . . Luke was born to be a Jedi.

"Come on, Luke," you whisper in the cockpit of your X-wing. "You can't die. We all need you."

The Commander's voice comes over the comm. "Luke," he says, "thirty seconds before the Death Star is in range to fire on Yavin 4!"

"I'm going in . . . no! I'm hit! I've lost R2!" Luke shouts.

You know how good a pilot Luke is, and you know he can hit the exhaust port if he's given the chance, but he's already been hit. He and his ship could be destroyed before he ever gets the chance to fire.

A moment later stormtroopers enter and lead you back to the command deck, where Darth Vader waits for your report. You are afraid he'll doubt your word, but you hope he'll sense the truth in you, the way he sensed the Force there earlier.

"You have the location of the Rebel base so quickly?" Vader asks, surprised.

"Yes," you reply. "It's on Yavin 4."

"Princess Leia is more trusting than I'd imagined, or you are more persuasive," Vader says as he eyes you suspiciously. "Or perhaps you're lying to me?"

"N-No, Lord Vader," you stammer. "The base is on Yavin 4. I hope that you will spare the life of the Princess. She is no threat to anyone now that you know the location of the Rebel base."

"If you're telling the truth, Princess Leia will be transported to the spice mines of Kessel and imprisoned there for life rather than executed. You see, the Empire is nothing if not fair, Lieutenant. I will see to it that your boon is granted," Vader rasps. "If you're lying, you will both be executed," he adds.

R2 beeps and whistles from his hiding place, then rolls across the hard-packed sand toward old Ben.

"This little droid here," Luke says, pointing to R2. "I think he's searching for his former master. I've never seen such loyalty in a droid. There's no stopping him. He claims to have been the property of someone named Obi-Wan Kenobi. Is that a relative of yours?"

"Obi-Wan Kenobi?" Ben exclaims. "Why, that's a name I've not heard in a long time."

"Then you know him?" you ask.

"Know him? I should think so. He's me!" Ben says happily.

"Then R2 belongs to you?" Luke asks Ben.

"I don't seem to recall ever owning a droid," Ben replies. "But we really ought to get inside before the Sand People come back. They're easily frightened, but they won't stay away for long."

At the bay, you find Luke, Han Solo, and Chewbacca, along with some Rebel troops, pinned down just inside the entrance.

With a blaster to Leia's head, you drag her into the middle of the fight.

"Luke!" you cry. "I've got the Princess!"

All fighting suddenly stops. Luke peeks out from his cover, sees you, and almost drops his blaster in surprise. He is obviously horrified at the sight of you in an Imperial Navy uniform.

"Surrender now—a total cease-fire—and I will spare her life and ask Tarkin and Vader to be merciful toward you and your friends. If you don't surrender, she'll be executed immediately, and the rest of you will follow soon enough!" you call to him.

After a few moments of hesitation, Luke and the others throw down their weapons and surrender to the Imperial troops. As the Rebels are escorted to the prison level, Han Solo and Chewbacca stare at you. Only Luke dares to approach. A stormtrooper moves to stop him, but you order the trooper to stand back.

"I never dreamed it would come to this," Luke says. "You in that uniform and me your prisoner."

You may never have another chance to do something so important. If getting the droids to Alderaan will help the Rebellion against the Empire, you've got to go. The Rebellion must come first.

"So you're coming?" Luke says hopefully.

"Wouldn't miss it," you reply. "After all, if I don't come along, who will keep you out of trouble?"

You laugh together, and you know for certain that you've made the right decision. After selling the landspeeder, you go with Luke, Ben, and the droids to the docking bay where the *Falcon* is waiting.

"After all Han's bragging, I can't wait to see this great starship of his," you tell Luke as you enter the hangar.

Inside, however, the *Falcon* turns out to be less impressive than you imagined. In fact, it looks like a junk heap.

"That's it?" Luke cries. "That's the starship we paid an arm and a leg for transport on? What a piece of junk!"

Chewbacca roars his disapproval about Luke's comments, but you have to agree with him.

"What a wreck!" you say.

“Go,” you tell Leia, and turn away as she runs to join the rest of the Rebels. The Imperial forces have been defeated, and reinforcements have not yet arrived from the other levels.

The Rebels take Luke’s body with them onto the *Millenium Falcon* and escape, leaving you to face the fury of Tarkin and Darth Vader. You know that you will deserve whatever you get.

But Vader never has a chance to take vengeance upon you. Not long after the Rebels flee the Death Star, their attack succeeds, and the space station is blown into nothing but space debris, killing everyone on board, including yourself.

THE END

"Go!" you tell Leia. "Run to the others."

"What are you going to do?" Leia asks.

"What I must," you tell her.

You run toward the stormtroopers, calling out orders with all the authority that your rank carries. They step aside. You rush past them into the landing bay, dodging blaster bolts from the same Rebels you're trying to save.

Luke recognizes you and calls out as you run past him. You ignore him, for he hasn't yet seen the stormtroopers about to fire on him from behind. At the last moment, you leap in front of the blaster bolts and are shot in the chest. You fall to the ground. Luke blasts the stormtrooper who shot you. He kneels by you as you die, confused by your presence—the last place he saw you was in the cantina on Mos Eisley—and your Imperial uniform. He is heartbroken that you have sacrificed your life for his own.

His face is the last thing you see as life leaves you. But you die content, believing that your sacrifice will allow the Rebels to escape before they are captured by the stormtroopers.

"You're alive, Luke," you say softly. "Isn't that what's important?"

"Is it?" Luke asks.

You can't meet Luke's gaze anymore, so you signal for him to be taken away.

Later, you are called to the command deck by Tarkin and Vader. They inform you that the Rebel attack has been repulsed and a flaw in the design of the Death Star repaired so that the station is now invulnerable.

"You have done well, Lieutenant," Tarkin says. "I have decided to promote you to captain. In addition, you will have a special assignment. You are to begin training in the ways of the Force. Lord Vader will train you himself."

You are relieved that you are not to be executed but feel sick as viewscreens shimmer to life showing Yavin 4, where the Rebel base is. Luke, Leia, Ben, Han, and Chewbacca are brought to the bridge, and you all watch in horror as the Death Star's laser weapon obliterates the entire moon of Yavin 4. The Rebellion has suffered a terrible setback.



When Luke gets back into the landspeeder to return to Ben and the droids, you realize you can't go with him. After what's happened to Luke's aunt and uncle, you understand that any involvement with the Rebellion could be dangerous not only for you but for your own family. You can't risk that. Instead you return to your family farm. You work there for the rest of your life, always wondering what became of Luke, Ben, and Princess Leia.

THE END

"Now then, Luke," Ben continues, "you and your young friend must learn the ways of the Force if you're to accompany me to Alderaan."

Both of you stare at Ben in shock. You have responsibilities to your family, and Luke's uncle Owen would be pretty angry if Luke just up and left the planet.

"On the other hand," you say to Luke, "I've been looking for some adventure, and my parents have plenty of help on the farm. I'll bet they'd be proud of me for helping the Rebellion."

"Good for you," Luke says. "But not me. I'd like to help you, Ben, but I've been gone so long already I'll be in big trouble when I get home. I can take you both as far as Anchorhead, and you can get transport to Mos Eisley spaceport from there."

Together, you, Luke, Ben, and the droids leave Ben's home and climb into the landspeeder for the trip to Anchorhead.

Chewbacca leads you across the bar to a rugged-looking man sitting alone. He wears high black boots, a black vest, and a blaster on his hip.

"Can I help you gents?" the man asks.

"Captain Solo, I presume?" Ben says.

"We hear you've got a fast ship," you say.

"I've outrun Imperial starships. If you're worried about speed," Han Solo replies, "the *Falcon*'s fast enough for you, kid."

Ben and Han talk money, and the deal is done. You've got a ship to take you to Alderaan. But suddenly you find yourself thinking more about the farm and your family. You know your parents will be proud of you when they hear of your adventure. But you're going to miss them, and you didn't even have a chance to say good-bye.

**IF YOU MAKE YOUR WAY BACK HOME,
TURN TO PAGE 7.**

**IF YOU GO WITH THE OTHERS,
TURN TO PAGE 85.**

You stun the stormtrooper walking with Leia. As he falls, Leia turns and stares at you. You pick up the fallen stormtrooper's blaster and put it in the belt of your uniform, pointing your own blaster at her.

"What—?" She fumbles for something to say. "Why did you do that?"

"Whatever you may think of me, I saved your life—and the lives of Luke, Ben, and everyone on Alderaan—by betraying the location of the Rebel base," you tell her. "Now, maybe we'll get through this all right if you'll be quiet and cooperate while I try to figure it out."

"You don't expect me to believe this was your plan all along, do you?" Leia says angrily. "You gave up the location of the Rebel base to save your own hide."

"You can believe what you want," you tell her. "I've been doing what I thought was best all along, and I think it's worked out so far. Now just be quiet a few seconds, and maybe we'll all get out of this alive."

If the stormtroopers see you interfere on Luke's behalf, Vader will certainly hear and punish you hideously, so you do nothing to warn your friend. At the last moment, Leia notices the danger and screams a warning. Luke turns to face the stormtroopers who have snuck up on him, but he is too late. They blast him, and he falls to the floor of the landing bay, dead.

You realize that you have just cost your best friend his life because you were too frightened for your own safety to do anything else. Suddenly you know what you must do.

Capri Otti helps you find a freighter captain willing to carry you to Alderaan. She buys you a soda while you wait for the ship to be prepared.

“I’ve got to get back to work,” Capri says, after draining her glass. “Tell Han Solo I send my love.”

You’re sad that Capri is leaving. After all, she’s the only person you trust in Mos Eisley. But there’s nothing more you can do—you need to warn Luke and the others that the Empire is on to them.

“Hey!” Wuher shouts, marching out of the stockroom to point a finger in your face. “What are you doing? I’m not paying you to sit around and mope!”

“Sorry, Wuher. I have to quit,” you say. “I’m . . .”

You almost tell him you’re leaving the planet, but you remember his loyalty to the Empire. The less he knows, the better.

“I’m going back to my parents’ farm,” you lie.

“Well, how do you like that?” Wuher shouts angrily. “I take pity on you, give you a job, and this is what I get? You take off without even saying thank you!”

“Um,” you mutter. “Thank you?”

“Yeah, yeah, just get out of here!” Wuher snarls.

"You're just impatient," you tell him. "And not scared enough of dying."

"Hey," he says, "I'm not the one who dragged us down here to get some girl nobody's ever seen."

You smile. Han's right, of course, but you know that Leia has to be saved.

"I've got your R2 unit," you hear Luke saying as he comes back down the corridor with Princess Leia at his side. "I'm here with Ben Kenobi."

"Ben Kenobi!" she cries. "Where is he?"

You watch as Han's eyes widen. He is obviously taken by the princess. She is pretty and very confident, a person used to commanding others.

"The old man's doing his part to make sure we get out of here," Han says gruffly, then turns to Luke. "Can we *go* now? Or is there anyone else you want to free?"

"You've got an attitude problem, flyboy," Leia snaps at Han. "Better stow that, or it will get you killed."

"Maybe you'd prefer it back in your cell, Your Highness?" Han grumbles.

"Chewbacca," you say suddenly, "Han's right. If we go back there, it'll be suicide. If they had any sense, they'd have abandoned the base and started again somewhere else, instead of throwing their lives away."

Han stares at you. "Maybe we should go back," he says softly.

"Wait a minute," you say. "Don't start feeling guilty now—you're just going to get us all killed. Besides, think about it, Han. What difference can one ship, even a ship as fast as the *Falcon*, make against the Death Star?"

Han takes a deep breath and lets it out slowly. Then he turns to look at Chewbacca. Chewie turns away.

"It's the only way," you say.

"I know," Han agrees. "I just hope I'll be able to live with myself."

He keeps flying. Back at the Death Star, Darth Vader liquidates Luke's X-wing, killing your best friend before he can destroy the space station. Yavin 4 is obliterated and with it most of the Rebel Alliance. The Empire is able to build its forces unchecked until it controls three Death Stars.

Suddenly a larger ship drops out of hyperspace in front of you and whips past your X-wing. You crane your neck to watch as the *Millenium Falcon* flies toward the surface of the Death Star. Han and Chewie are back! The *Falcon* fires on the ships pursuing Luke. One of them is destroyed, and the lead ship, probably Vader's, spins wildly out of control and into space.

“Yahooooooooo!” Han screams.

“Han?” Luke shouts in return. “Han, you came back!”

“You’re all clear now, kid,” Han tells Luke over the comm. “Let’s blow this thing and go home.”

Luke does just that, firing right into the heat exhaust port and causing a chain reaction that blows up the entire Death Star. Luke’s X-wing and the *Falcon* barely make it out of the blast area in time.

“You did it, Luke!” you cry. You can hear Chewbacca over the comlink roaring his praise as well.

“Great shot, kid,” Han shouts. “That was one in a million.”

A short time later, as you sit in the landing bay's silent command center, Luke cries out in pain.

"Luke!" you shout.

"Kid, what is it?" Han asks.

Chewbacca roars, and the droids approach. When Luke looks up, his face is stricken with sorrow.

"It's Ben," he says. "He's dead. Killed by Darth Vader. I felt him . . . he . . . spoke to me. The tractor beam is off. We've got to get out of here. Now!"

"I didn't feel anything," you say, somehow disappointed that your small measure of talent with the Force could not detect Ben's message.

"If the old man's dead, we've really got to go," Han says, moving toward the door.

"But what about the Princess?" you ask.

"We're going to get her out first," Luke says bravely. "Han, you and Chewie can go get the *Falcon* prepped if you want. I'm not leaving here without Princess Leia."

Just then alarms squeal loudly throughout the space station. You cover your ears and wince in pain at the noise.

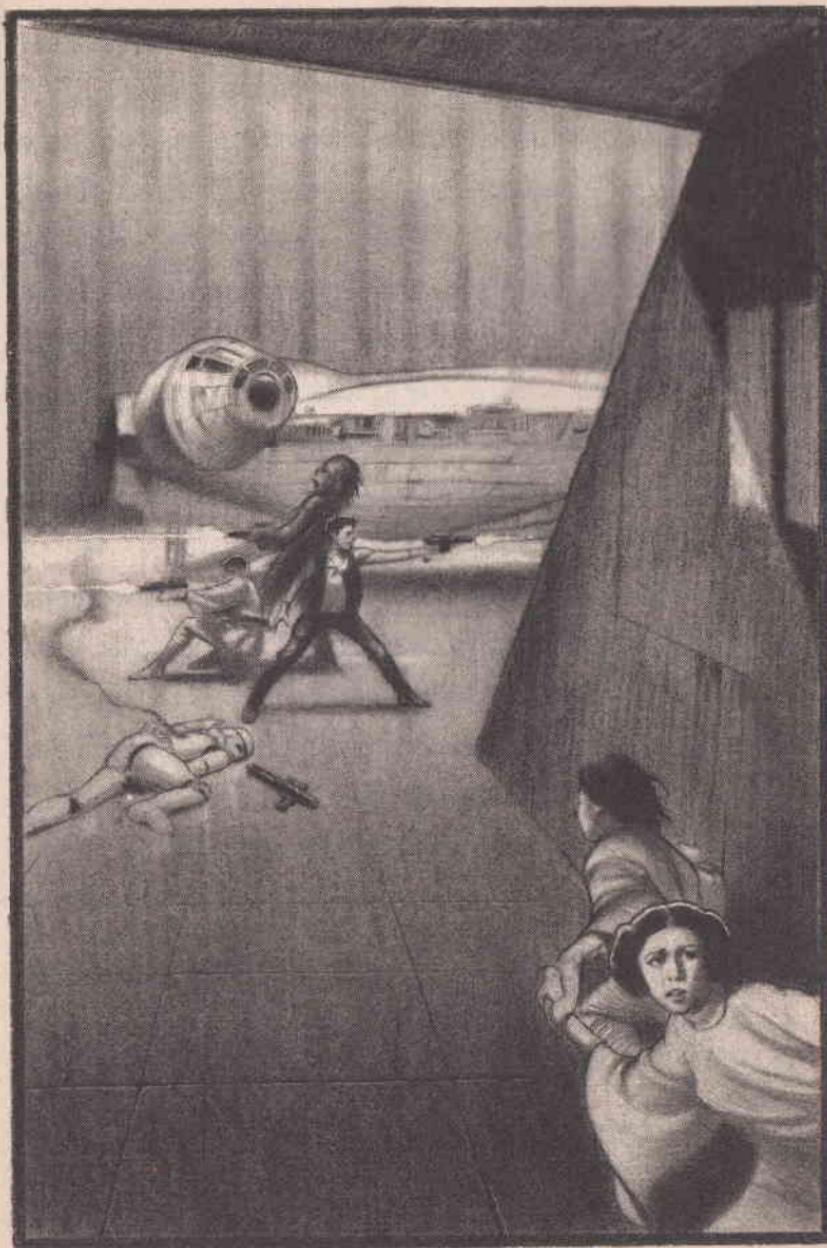
You and Leia run to the *Falcon*, blasting any stormtroopers who try to stop you. As you board the ship, you see Vader striding toward you in a rage. Fortunately, you are able to close the ramp just before he reaches you.

Then the *Falcon* blasts out of the landing bay, and you breathe a long sigh of relief. Behind you, the Death Star suddenly explodes. Over the communication systems, you hear a roar of excitement from the Rebel pilots in their X-wing fighters.

"Ben Kenobi sends his best," Luke tells Leia. "He's on Alderaan with your father. We're headed back that way now."

Then Luke turns to you and points at your uniform. "I want to hear all about your adventures in the Imperial Navy," he says with a smile.

The Rebellion has taken a decisive victory in the battle against the Empire. The tide of war has turned, and it won't be long before the Empire is crushed completely. As you think about your important role in this Rebel victory, you are determined to fight bravely against the Emperor until the galaxy is safe from his evil.



Ben leaves. Han shakes his head. "Where did you two dig up that old fossil?" he asks, laughing.

"Ben is a great man!" Luke snaps.

"Yeah, great at getting us into trouble," Han replies.

"Well, I didn't hear you coming up with any ideas, Captain," you say angrily, joining Luke to defend Ben.

"Hey." Han shrugs. "Anything would be better than hanging around here waiting for stormtroopers to pick us up."

R2 begins beeping excitedly again, his high-pitched whistles hurting your ears.

"Master Luke!" 3PO says excitedly, "R2 says he's found her! This is extraordinary. She's here on the space station, sir! Detention Block AA-23!"

You completely lose your cool.

“Give me that thing!” you shout, slogging through the sewage to reach for the comlink.

“No, I’m trying—just give it a second,” Luke says.

“We don’t have a second,” you shout in a panic, and grab at the small device.

“Wait, stop!” Luke snaps.

Too late. You accidentally knock the comlink out of Luke’s hands into the sewer water. The two of you fall to your knees in the sewage, searching for the small metal cylinder. But time has run out. Amid screams of pain and the crunch of garbage, you and all your friends are crushed to death inside the trash compactor, simply because you lost your cool.

Without the plans for the Death Star, and the leadership of Princess Leia and Ben Kenobi, the Rebellion suffers a serious setback, and the war drags on for decades.

THE END

Unfortunately another platoon of stormtroopers appears, blocking your path. You can hear the first group coming up behind you. You're trapped. There's only one thing left to do. Surrender.

You drop to your knees and lace your fingers behind your head.

"That's right, Rebel," the stormtrooper captain growls as he binds your wrists with shackles. "Just don't move, and you'll live . . . at least until we hand you over for questioning."

You are herded on board an Imperial transport and kept in a holding cell until you arrive at the Imperial battle station the stormtroopers call the Death Star, the biggest artificial structure you've ever seen.

On the Death Star, you're brought to the prison level. A small door slides open, and you see that you are face to face . . . with the woman from the hologram!

"Princess Leia?" you ask in astonishment.

The stormtroopers glance at each other. By letting them know that you recognize Leia, you've virtually admitted to being part of the Rebellion.

When you're alone, the Princess stares at you.

"Do I know you?" she asks.

“What do you want from me?” you manage to ask.

“Your first act as a lieutenant in the Imperial Navy,” Tarkin explains, “will be to return to your cell and convince Princess Leia that you support the Rebellion. Do whatever you must, but find out from her the location of the Rebel Headquarters.”

“And if I say no?” you ask.

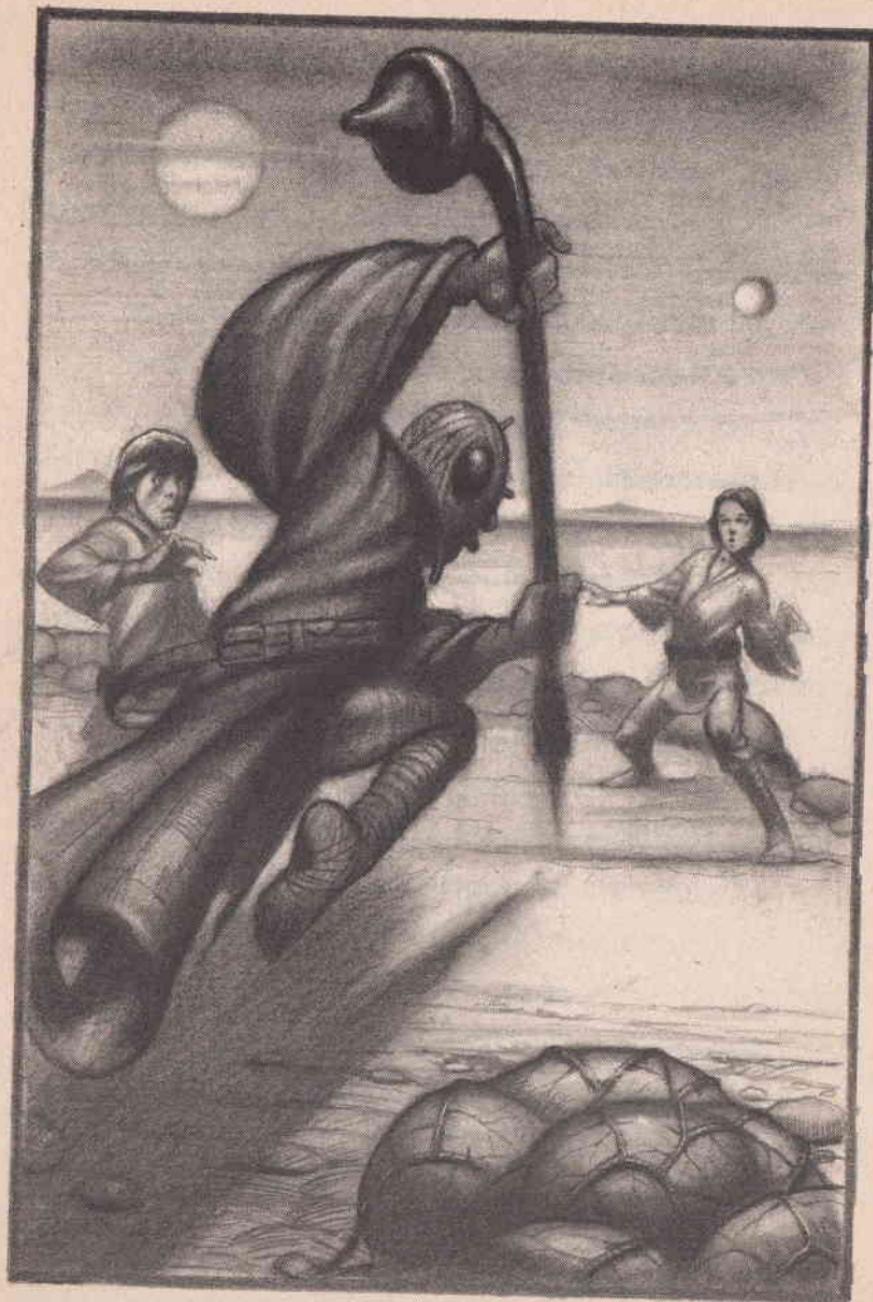
“That’s not an option,” Tarkin replies.

You consider Tarkin’s offer carefully. If he is telling the truth, you will become an Imperial officer. With the security, wealth, and power of your position, you might be able to keep Tarkin and Vader from killing Luke.

But you can’t save anybody if you’re dead.

**IF YOU REFUSE TARKIN’S OFFER,
TURN TO PAGE 10.**

**IF YOU AGREE TO HELP THE EMPIRE,
TURN TO PAGE 117.**



Then you hear screams as a Tusken Raider jumps up right in front of you. You shout in alarm and dive out of the way as it attacks you with a club. Luke also jumps clear, but now there are more of them, and you realize they could easily kill you both.

You see a hole in their swarm. For a moment you wonder if you should run.

**IF YOU RUN,
TURN TO PAGE 14.**

**IF YOU STAY AND FIGHT,
TURN TO PAGE 69.**

You know better than to say anything else. Let Vader think what he wants. If you're alive, no matter where you are, it's got to be better than being executed.

Or at least that's what you think, until an Imperial transport delivers you to Kessel. Immediately you are put to work in the darkest, most dangerous part of the mine. You can barely breathe. You've got to watch your back at all times for fear that another prisoner may try to rob or kill you. And you never, ever get to breathe fresh air or see the light of day.

It's horrible. Hellish. After a few years, you don't care about anything anymore. Not your family or Luke. Not even the Rebellion. You find yourself hoping, praying for Vader to come for you. But he never does. Whether he's dead or has forgotten you doesn't matter. All it means is you'll never get off this horrible planet. Never.

THE END

You decide that you must tell Leia about the deal you made with Tarkin and that you plan to betray him by providing false information.

“This is perfect,” Leia says excitedly. “Tell them the Rebel base is on Dantooine! We actually had a base there, but now it’s abandoned. Tarkin will believe you, but fooling Vader might be another story.”

You nod, realizing the danger you are both in. You begin pounding on the door while Leia shouts at you, pretending to be furious.

“What are you doing?” she yells. “You can’t tell them or we’re all dead! Don’t you understand?!”

A moment later stormtroopers enter and lead you back to the command deck, where Darth Vader waits for your report. You are very nervous, afraid he’ll somehow sense your lie.

That’s it, you think! The Force. You know from talking to Ben Kenobi that there’s not only power but peace and focus and concentration to be had from the Force. You search within yourself and are amazed to find the strength to calm yourself down. You are ready for Vader now.

“Who’s here?” you ask.

“Princess Leia,” 3PO replies. “She’s on the prison level, and I’m afraid she’s scheduled to be terminated.”

“Terminated!” Luke gasps. “We’ve got to help her! We’ve got to figure out a way to get to her!”

“I’m not going anywhere,” Han comments.

“Look, Han,” Luke says. “A few minutes ago, you complained about just sitting around. They’re going to kill her!”

“Better her than me,” Han says. Chewie growls in agreement.

Han has a point. It’s not much better than a suicide mission to try to rescue Princess Leia. But you know she plays a valuable role in the Rebellion. The idea of leaving her to die is not very heroic. You’re uncertain what to do.

**IF YOU THINK THAT IT’S TOO RISKY TO
RESCUE LEIA, TURN TO PAGE 59.**

**IF YOU THINK THAT YOU SHOULD
RESCUE LEIA, TURN TO PAGE 19.**

Then you turn to 3PO. The golden humanoid droid is standing in a corner by the computer console with R2.

"3PO," you say, "ask R2 to monitor all transmissions for any mention of Ben, the *Falcon*, or the tractor beams."

R2's dome-head spins around so that the eyelike lens on his dome faces you. The droid beeps and whistles loudly.

"R2," 3PO chides the droid. "Don't be rude."

"I'm sorry," you say. "I don't speak Astromech."

"Of course not," 3PO says. "R2 was just reminding you, and none too politely, that just because you don't understand his language, that does not mean that he has trouble understanding yours. He would prefer it if you did not speak of him as if he were not here."

"Oh," you say, embarrassed. "Tell him . . . there I go again. Sorry, R2."

R2 chirps pleasantly and goes back to monitoring the computer.

“Thank you, 009,” the officer says. “You’re right about the danger of such a man. How he slipped through Imperial training is beyond me. If you don’t have a visit from a psych evaluator in the next hour, please contact me immediately and I will see to it.”

“Yes, sir,” you snap. “Thank you, sir.”

The officer signs off, and you breathe a long sigh of relief. You turn to find Han and Chewie staring at you.

“Not in my right mind, huh?” Han asks. “You can say that again. Otherwise I never would have come down here with you two farmhands. Tatooine must breed insanity.”

Chewbacca growls something and pats you on the back. You look at Han for some translation.

“You did good, kid,” Han says reluctantly. “I was having a bit of trouble there.”

"Hurry, Luke!" Biggs shouts over the comlink. "They're coming in much faster this time! I can't hold them!"

Then you hear the pilot cry out as his X-wing is shot down. Luke roars in anguish, but keeps flying.

The Rebel Commander's voice comes over the comm next. "Luke," he says, "you have thirty seconds before the Death Star is in range to fire on Yavin 4!"

"I'm going in . . . no! I'm hit! I've lost R2!" Luke shouts.

You can see that the lead ship, the one you believe is piloted by Vader, is firing on Luke. Luke's X-wing has been hit, but he's closing fast on the reactor. You know how good a pilot he is, and you know he can hit that exhaust port if he's given the chance. But Vader could destroy Luke and his ship before he ever gets that chance.

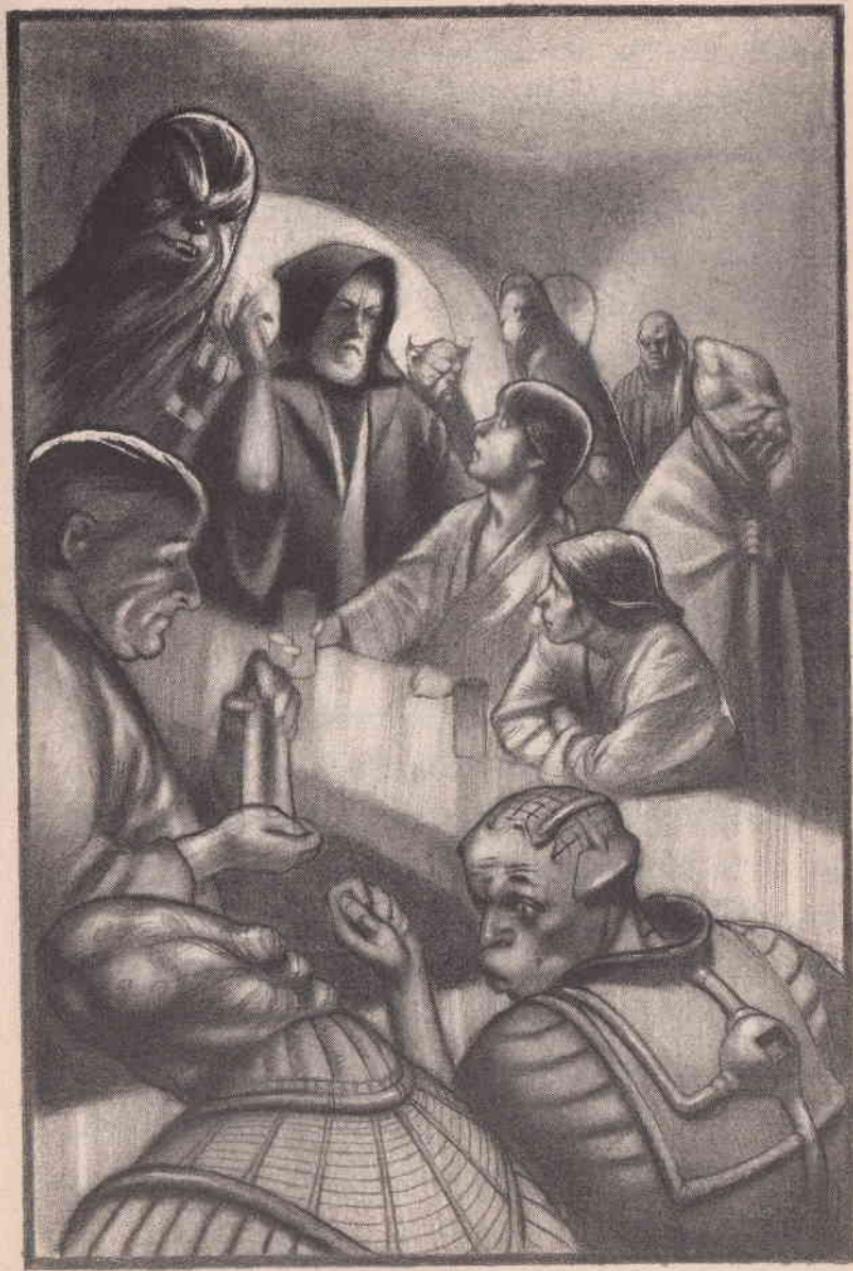
"I'm coming, Luke!" you cry over the comm.

You pilot your X-wing toward the surface of the Death Star and blast away at the ships pursuing Luke. One of them is destroyed. The lead ship, Vader's, spins wildly out of control into space.

You've never been to Mos Eisley spaceport before. It has the reputation of being a hangout for the worst criminals in the galaxy. But you all know it's the only place to find a pilot with a ship to take you from Tatooine to Alderaan.

Once you arrive, Ben guides everyone to a local cantina, then disappears into the crowd. You sit and have a drink of water with Luke. Soon Ben joins you at the bar and introduces you to a huge furry Wookiee.

"Chewbacca's the first mate and copilot on a ship that should suit our needs. His captain is over at that table, a man named Han Solo. We'll see if we can buy our passage to Alderaan," Ben explains.



"No can do, old friend," you say.

Luke starts to yell at you to withdraw, but you interrupt him.

"Listen, Luke, waste time yelling at me later," you say. "For now, just go blow up that space station, okay?"

Grumbling, Luke leads Biggs and Wedge on a three-X-wing attack on the space station. You hang back with the remainder of Red Flight and Gold Flight to take on the last of the TIE fighters. But you keep an eye on Luke. It isn't long before you hear him over the comm.

He's in trouble.

"Look out!" Wedge shouts over the comm.

"TIE fighters! Right behind us . . ." Biggs adds.

You glance out your cockpit and see the two TIEs, led by a third ship of a design you've never seen before. You can sense an evil coming from the ship, and you know that Vader is the pilot. Vader fires, and Wedge's ship is hit!

"I'm losing control! I can't hold course!" Wedge shouts.

Luke orders him off.

“Thank you,” you manage to say, though it’s hard to speak the words. “I will find the location of the Rebel Headquarters.”

Tarkin is obviously pleased, but Vader is silent. He doesn’t trust you. The problem is, you aren’t sure you trust yourself. It would be so easy to go along with Tarkin’s plan. After all, you don’t really know much about the Rebellion. Ben Kenobi might just be a crazy old man who has pulled Luke into something very dangerous and misguided.

You are put back in your cell, where Leia waits.

“I kept waiting for them to torture me, but they didn’t,” you tell her. “They just kept asking me where Luke and Ben were heading on the *Millenium Falcon*, and where the Rebel base is. I assumed that you sent Ben to Alderaan because that’s where the base was, so I didn’t tell them that’s where Luke went.”

“Luke is lucky to have a friend like you,” Leia says, obviously touched by your pretense of loyalty. You feel guilty, and you almost blurt out the truth. But you can’t. So much depends on keeping your pact with Tarkin, like saving Luke’s life—and Leia’s, for that matter.

"I just hope Luke can get to the Rebel base on Alderaan in time," you say.

The Princess looks at you oddly a moment, her eyes narrowed, as if she is trying to make up her mind about something.

"The base isn't on Alderaan," Leia says in a whisper, trusting you with the truth. "That's just where my father is, and he's part of the Rebellion. Rebel Headquarters is on Yavin 4."

You stare at her. You've never even heard of Yavin 4, but now that she's told you where the base is, you wish you didn't know. Because now you have to decide what to do with the information.

**IF YOU LIE TO TARKIN AND VADER,
TURN TO PAGE 109.**

**IF YOU BETRAY LEIA,
TURN TO PAGE 72.**

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